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beautiful ideas for knitting & crochet

ISSUE 29
JANUARY
£3.99



Fashion wrap

Page 34



Edging masterclass



Elegant tank top

Page 46



Rowan chunky sweater

Knit this warm
and stylish

Winter jacket

IN JUST A WEEK!



3 easy to knit gifts

1. Teddy bear
2. Cat cushion
3. Lacy socks



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THINGS I LOVE
IN JANUARY'S
ISSUE

Knit Today
loves



Your free gift

We're giving you hat, scarf and mittens patterns to keep your family snug this winter

See page 7

Country charm

Add a touch of elegance to your wardrobe with our beautiful lacy tank top

See page 46



Treats for feet

Kids will love these colourful socks. They're so easy to make!

See page 40



Welcome



Happy New Year! We've packed this issue of *Knit Today* with gorgeous new knitting patterns, expert advice, great reads, and handy reviews, to help you get 2009 off to a great start! *If you're looking for something stylish to keep you warm, then you'll love our cosy cover project.* Our elegant flared coat flatters all figures, and the plum colour is a fashion essential this winter – see page 10.

If you're looking for a way to refresh an old favourite pattern, then read Mary Hickmott's masterclass on page 23. She shows you how a decorative edge can instantly update an old look. Enjoy!

Marie

Marie Parry, Editor



Vote for your favourites in the International Knitting Awards and you could win a prize too!

BEST BUYS

We review the latest and greatest knitting patterns, yarns and books

See page 70



Enter our
**Patons
competition**
on page 18
WIN £1000
worth
of prizes!



MEET THE DESIGNERS



TINA BARRETT

Knitwear designer, Tina Barrett designed the gorgeous jacket on this month's cover. Find out more about Tina and her love of knitting on page 90.



MARIE WALLIN

Marie Wallin is an in-house designer at Rowan who created our chunky Gunnerside jumper for men. Marie loves working with organic, sustainable and ethically sourced yarns.



VAL PIERCE

Top designer, Val Pierce, designed our adorable teddy bear on page 76. A self-taught knitter, Val has been crafting her whole life, driven by her passion for 'making beautiful things'.



win
PRIZES WORTH
£1000!

December

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Our adorable teddy is a great project for new knitters



subscribe
today!

Save up to 30% when you
subscribe to *Knit Today*!

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SOCKS FOR KIDS**

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Dear Marie

I'd love to hear from you! Write to me at Dear Marie,

Knit Today, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

or email me at knittoday@originpublishing.co.uk



Every letter with a photo that we print will win a fantastic knitting prize

Getting round to it

I took up knitting a couple of months ago after witnessing a friend of a friend sitting in serenity making a hat, while at a party. After a stressful couple of months, I decided I could do with something to help me chill out - and something to show for it - so I persuaded this person to teach me. Now I'm absolutely hooked! After knitting a couple of scarves and a baby hat, I decided to challenge myself a bit further and learn to knit in the round. This is a picture of me in my first ever circular project. I've just read my first issue of *Knit Today* and I'm looking forward to having a go at some of the patterns here now. My mum has been knitting for years and maintains that it is genetic - here's hoping it continues into the next generation as well!

Nicola Jones, Oxford

Marie says Welcome to the world of knitting that we all love, Nicola! It certainly seems like you're getting along very well, so you must have inherited your mum's talent. The variegated yarn you've chosen for the hat looks lovely, and I'm sure it will come in very handy as winter settles in.



Nicola's first hat has come out beautifully

Marie says What a good idea, Elval! It never occurred to me to use wine corks as needle holders, but I can see that it would work very well. I'm glad you've started reading *Knit Today* - please do let us know of any more

Don't bin the cork!

I've just started reading *Knit Today* after purchasing issue 27. I've been a knitter for some 70 years and enjoy it even more now that I am retired. In Joanna Benner's question and answer page about knitting needles, she recommended that Elenor from Manchester use Teddy Bear needle huggers to stop the stitches coming off her double-ended needles. I just wanted to let Elenor know that she can also try using the cork from wine bottles. I put another hole in the cork (or plastic cork), and it works well. Enjoy the wine before, but don't bin the cork!

Elva MacLaren, Elgin

First knit

I showed my goddaughter, Ella, my knitting and she wanted to have a go. I taught her how to knit and she picked it up really quickly, impressing both her mum, Kelly, and me. She decided she wanted to tie up the ends to make a handbag, although it doesn't open. It's one of her favourite things though, and she really loved making it. Kelly and I are so proud of her - she is almost six years old and we can't believe how good she is at knitting already!

Laura Doyle, Truro

Marie says Ella has indeed done a fabulous job - you must have been a good teacher, Laura! It looks like she's well on her way to becoming an experienced knitter, and I look forward to seeing what she makes next.

STAR LETTER



Six-year-old Ella knit herself a red handbag

involved in the art of knitting. Perhaps Jim Morris, who also wrote a letter in issue 25, may have heard that even Russell Crowe admits to being a knitter!

Mary Barratt, Willenhall

Marie says It's very good to hear from you, Mary, and I'm glad we can help you rediscover knitting. I agree that there is certainly room for more men in our craft, but had no idea Russell Crowe has already joined us! Perhaps he'll read this and tell us why he enjoys knitting, and so encourage other men to give it a try. Please do keep in touch, and send us pictures of what you knit.

Beautiful blue

I saw that anyone who sends a picture with a letter will be in the running to win a great knitting kit - as I've just recently finished a big project, I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to show it off and possibly get a lovely knitting goodie in the post! My daughter took this picture of me wearing my lovely new blue cardigan that I knitted from a pattern in an old Rowan magazine. I bought the yarn quite a few years ago from a sale in a local shop, and only just got around to knitting it up - I wish I hadn't waited so long, but am very pleased with the result and have already worn it a lot. I hope you like it too! Thanks for such a fantastic magazine.

Ann Marie Ricardi, Kingston, Massachusetts, USA

Marie says I do like your new cardigan very much, Ann Marie! I think we all have bits and pieces for various projects in our knitting stash at home, waiting to be made up into lovely new knitted items. Glad you were able to get around to this one - it looks so comfy! What's everyone else trying to find the time to start working on?



TOP TIP OF THE MONTH

When I first left home (and didn't have my mum on hand to sort out problems for me) I used to think that I would easily remember where I'd got to in my knitting patterns without writing it down somewhere. However, after unravelling several messes, I realised that something more was needed and resorted to using 5 bar gates. That wasn't too successful either, so I developed my own system of writing out the pattern row by row in a very simple way using numbers and symbols, and crossing out the rows as I go along. It works perfectly, and doesn't take much effort either. What systems do others use? I'm always on the lookout for new ideas!

Judith Draper, via email

Marie says Thanks for the tip, Judith! The wonderful thing about knitting and crochet is that everyone has their own methods that they like to use for all of the little things involved with both crafts, but it can be hard to find your own perfect one. I'm glad you've finally got a row counting system that works well for you, and perhaps you've also now helped someone else in a similar situation. Do any other readers have their own methods to share - do write in and tell us!

WRITE TO US!

If we print your letter and photo next month, you'll win a fantastic Patons Timmy the Sheep Knit Kit, worth £10. Our star letter writer will win this Play Days children's pattern book, plus 4 balls of red Fairytale yarn, worth £30. For more information call 01325 394237 or visit www.coatscrafts.co.uk. Write to us at: Dear Marie, Knit Today, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN or email knittoday@originpublishing.co.uk



“ I write out the pattern row by row, and cross out the rows as I go along ”

Try knitting an
i-cord trim
around the
edges

Berry beautiful



Tina Barrett has recently had two books of knitting and crochet patterns for babies and toddlers published, and loves designing with natural, organic yarns.

By Tina Barrett

Wrap yourself up in style with this flared coat, designed by Tina Barrett. It's knitted in double moss stitch using Rowan's Cashsoft Aran yarn

This warm, gorgeous jacket is the answer to your winter wardrobe woes! It brings together a classic retro feel with some fab up-to-the-minute fashion trends. The flared style will flatter most figures, while the high collar and decorative, chunky buttons (concealing poppers on the inside) make a cool fashion statement. It's a coat that's flexible to wear as well as easy to knit, and totally practical - in milder weather, you can roll the cuffs back and fasten the sides together at only the collar or the bodice.

texture that's super warm and insulating against those chilly winter winds.

The shaping is relatively straightforward as well, because the coat is designed to flare out from the buttons. This cape style will flatter all shapes, especially fuller figures, but if you want to make it more shapely around the waist, a chunky belt is the on-trend choice.

To finish it off, you'll need to pick up and knit an i-cord around the edge of the jacket and cuffs, which is very easy to master and a handy technique you'll use again and again.



YARN

Content:

57% extra fine merino,
33% acrylic microfibre,
10% cashmere

Weight/Length:
50g/87m

Washing:

Machine wash 30°C
RRP: £4.45

Rowan,
☎ 01484 681881
www.knitrowan.com

Cape shape

The design itself would make a great first big project for a reasonably new knitter - it uses only knit and purl stitches to create a simple double moss stitch, which forms a really thick

Plum pleasure

The RYC Cashsoft Aran used for this jacket is a luxurious blend of wool, cashmere and acrylic microfibre that is a pleasure to knit with and wear - it's both very warm, and super-soft. The plum shade we chose will suit all complexions, but there are more than 20 shades available, including some beautiful blue, brown and spicy tones as well as some bright fashion colours, so you can choose one that suits you!



turn over to start knitting

Knit this cosy, swing-style jacket to snuggle into this winter



PATTERN
DETAILSYOU
WILL
NEED...

- RYC Cashsoft Aran in Rich Plum (shade 019), as listed in the sizing guide
- 4.5mm (UK size 7) needles
- Set of 4.5mm (UK size 7) double-pointed knitting needles
- 6 large buttons
- 6 large snap fasteners
- Stitch holder

tension

Yarn used knits as aran to the following tension:

19 sts and 25 rows over 4in or 10cm using 4.5mm (UK size 7) needles, over double moss stitch

START
HERE!

BACK

Using 4.5mm needles, **cast on** 92 (100: 116) sts.

Work in double moss stitch as follows:

Row 1 (RS): (K2, P2) rep to end.

Row 2: As row 1.

Row 3: (P2, K2) rep to end.

Row 4: As row 3.

Repeat these 4 rows.

Work evenly in double moss stitch until work measures 44.5cm or 17½in, ending on WS row.

Sleeve/armhole

Keeping to pattern, cast off 5 sts at beg of next 2 rows. 82 (90: 106) sts.

Work evenly on these sts until work measures 66 (67: 69)cm or 26 (26½: 27)in, ending on a WS row.

Shapenext row armhole

Row 1: Cast off 9 (10: 13) sts, patt 17 (19: 23) sts, turn. 18 (20: 24) sts on the right-hand needle. Leave rem stitches on a holder and work on these sts only.

Row 2: Cast off 9 (10: 12) sts, patt to end.

Row 3: Cast off rem 9 (10: 12) sts.

With RS facing, rejoin yarn to stitches on holder. Cast off the next (centre) 28 (30: 32) sts and patt to end.

Work second shoulder to match the first, reversing the shapings.

FRONT

Start with left front. Using 4.5mm needles, **cast**



on 64 (68: 76) sts.

Work 44.5cm or 17½in in double moss stitch as for back, ending on a WS row.

Sleeve/armhole

Cast off 5 sts at beg of next row. 59 (63: 71) sts. Work evenly in double moss stitch until armhole measures 15 (18: 19)cm or 6 (7: 7½)in, ending on RS row.

Shapenext row

Cast off 20 (22: 24) sts at beg of next row. 39 (41: 47) sts.

Dec 1 st on neck edge on next and every foll rows until 27 (30: 36) sts rem.

Work evenly in patt until armhole measures 22 (23: 24)cm or 8½ (9: 9½)in, ending on WS row.

Shapeshoulder

Row 1: Cast off 9 (10: 12) sts, patt to end. 18 (20: 24) sts.

Row 2: Cast off 9 (10: 12) sts. 9 (10: 12) sts.

Row 3: Cast off rem 9 (10: 12) sts.

SIZING GUIDE		SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE
TO FIT BUST	in	34	36	40
	cm	86	92	96
FINISHED BUST	in	39	42	48
	cm	99	107	122
FINISHED LENGTH	in	26	26½	27
	cm	66	67	69
SLEEVE	in	17½	17½	18
	cm	44.5	44.5	46
NUMBER OF BALLS		22	25	28

Work right side to match, reversing all shapings.

SLEEVES

Using 4.5mm needles, **cast on** 52 (52: 56) sts. Working in double moss stitch, inc 1 st at each end of 7th (5th: 5th) row and every foll 6th (5th: 4th) row until 80 (88: 96) sts. Work evenly in patt until sleeve measures 44.5 (44.5: 46)cm or 17½ (17½: 18)in, ending on a WS row.

Shape cap

Dec 1 st at each end of next 20 (25: 28) rows. 40 (38: 40) sts. Then, cast off 5 (4: 4) sts at beg of next 4 rows. 20 (22: 24) sts. Cast off rem 20 (22: 24) sts.

COLLAR

Sew shoulder seams together.

With RS facing and using 4.5mm needles, pick up and knit 20 (22: 24) sts across cast off edge of right front, 12 (13: 12) sts up right front neck, 28 (30: 32) sts across back of neck, 12 (13: 12) sts down left front neck, and 20 (22: 24) sts across cast off edge of left front. 92 (100: 104) sts.

Work in double moss stitch for 9 (9.5: 10)cm or 3½ (3½: 4)in, ending on a WS row.

Cast off loosely.

BUTTON COVERS (MAKE 6)

Using 4.5mm needles, **cast on** 12 sts. Work 12 rows in double moss stitch. Cast off leaving a long tail.

ABBREVIATIONS

beg	beginning
cm	centimetre(s)
dec	decrease
foll	following
in	inch(es)
inc	increase
K	knit
k2tog	knit two stitches together
P	purl
patt	pattern
rem	remain(ing)
rep	repeat
RS	right side of work
st(s)	stitch(es)
WS	wrong side of work



The jacket extends far below the waist to keep in warmth.

Thread the tail end onto a tapestry needle, run a line of gathering stitches around all four edges of the square.

Place button in the centre and pull thread so square gathers up tightly around it. Secure with some firm stitches.

Making up

Darn in loose yarn edges and press pieces according to ball band of yarn.

Sew up sleeve and side seams.

i-cord edging

Work an i-cord around the entire outer edge of the jacket, as follows:

Using double-pointed needles, cast on 3 sts, pick up and knit 1 st from lower edge of jacket.

Step 1: Do not turn. Slide the stitches to the opposite end of the needle and work stitches as in step 2.

Step 2: K2, k2tog, pick up a new stitch along the edge of the work (4 sts).

Repeat steps 1 and 2 until the i-cord has been worked around the lower edge, right front edge, collar and left edge.

Fasten off and darn in loose yarn ends.

Repeat for cuffs.

Press buttons

Finally, overlap the double-breasted fronts of the jacket. Position the buttons: 2 on collar and four on bodice (see photo for reference).

Sew snap fasteners in place behind top 2 collar buttons and the outside 2 buttons running down the bodice.

Next month

Treat yourself to a colourful pair of comfy and cosy Fair Isle socks!

See issue 29 www.vyknit.co.uk



Work an i-cord trim around the edges of the jacket for a neat finish.

TOP 10 DAYS OUT

Take a look at our top 10 ideas for days out during January, where you can stock up on knitting supplies or learn something new



1

LEARN TO CROCHET

4, 11, 18, 25 January

Start off the year by learning a new skill! This course is made up of two classes, so you can choose two dates from those listed above (subject to availability). The course costs £24.99 and includes all the materials you need, as well as a pattern. Each class runs from 12-1pm and is held at K1 Yarns Knitting Boutique at 89 West Bow, Edinburgh Old Town. For details, call ☎ 0131 2267472 or visit www.k1yarns.com

2

KNITTING - CONTEMPORARY FELTING & TEXTURES

Starts 5 January

This is a 10-week course covering felting, intarsia, Fair Isle and textured structures. All you need to take part is an interest in the subject. It's held from 7-9pm on Mondays at Greenwich Park Centre, Royal Hill, London SE10 8PY and costs £70 (concessions available). For more details on the course, visit www.gcc.ac.uk, or call Greenwich Community College on ☎ 020 84884800

3

HANDKNITTING

9 January – 13 February

This is an intensive course to introduce you to handknitting, colour and texture. It's for beginners and anyone who'd like to explore the medium. You'll be given an insight into the knitting industry, including prediction works for colourways and themes. Learn a variety of basic stitches, as well as how to make patterns using graph paper and tension swatches. Basic materials are included for this course, which runs from 6-9pm at City Lit, Keeley Street, London WC2B 4BA. For details, visit www.citylit.ac.uk, call ☎ 020 74922700 or email visualarts@citylit.ac.uk



We advise that you **phone and double-check** the details of these events, before making a long trip

4

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BIG STITCH

Ends 13 January

For many children, home is such an unbearable place that staying there is not an option, and the only solution they can see is to run away. The Children's Society helps these young runaways and is inviting knitters to take part in its latest challenge. The aim is for participants to help knit a kilometre-long scarf - each centimetre (100,000 in total) representing one of the children who runs away every year. You can join in the project by knitting as much as you can, and raise money by getting your family and friends to sponsor you for each centimetre or inch that you knit. Go online to www.childrenssociety.org.uk to download a sponsorship form and guide.

5

KNITTING SOCKS

17 January

Learn to turn a heel and knit socks during this one-day workshop, led by Vikki Haffenden. You'll knit using double-pointed needles to create some wonderfully cosy socks that will keep you warm this winter. This is a great workshop if you want to learn a new skill or build on your confidence, and will suit beginners or intermediate knitters. To take part, you'll need to be competent in using standard needles to work stocking stitch. The workshop costs £65 and is held in Buirwash, East Sussex. For bookings and enquiries, email nicki@nickitrench.com or call ☎ **01435 884288**

8

CRAFT4CRAFTERS

23-25 January

Browse thousands of the latest products for knitting, crochet, quilting, embroidery, and more at Craft4Crafters at Exeter's Westpoint Centre! Adult tickets cost £6 (£5 in advance) and concessions £5 (£4 in advance). Children under 15 go free when accompanied by an adult. The show is open from 10am-5pm on Friday and Saturday, and 10am-4pm on Sunday. Enter our ticket giveaway on page 43! Visit www.craft4crafters.co.uk or call ☎ **0117 9705007** to find out more.



THE STITCH & CREATIVE CRAFTS SHOW

22-25 January

Head to Sandown Park Exhibition Centre in Esher, Surrey for the next Stitch & Creative Crafts Show. It covers all aspects of quality stitchcraft including knitting, crochet, patchwork, cross stitch, sewing and embroidery, as well as lots of other crafts too! Standard adult tickets cost £7.50 (£5.50 in advance), £6.50 for concessions (£4.50 in advance). Free parking is available and the show opens from 10am-5pm Thursday-Saturday, and 10am-4pm Sunday. See our ticket giveaway on page 43! For more information, call ☎ **01822 614671** or visit www.stitchandcreativecrafts.co.uk

9

A PROFESSIONAL FINISH

26 January

Those who want to improve the look of their knitted garments can learn finishing techniques from expert Debbie Abraham. The course runs from 10.30am-4.30pm, costs £35 and includes lunch and materials. You'll also save 10% on yarns purchased on the day from the venue, Create, in Ilkley, West Yorkshire. Call ☎ **01943 817788** or visit www.createcafe.co.uk

STITCHING INTO KNITTING

17 January

Learn to combine intarsia with embroidery using an intarsia motif from Rowan's new design collection. Find out how to work with bobbins and a number of strands at once, and embellish with embroidery. Bring 3.75mm, 4mm and 4.5mm knitting needles to the class at Fibre + Clay in Knutsford. All other materials and detailed notes will be provided. It costs £40, which includes lunch and 10% off yarn bought on the day. Call ☎ **01565 652035** or visit www.fibreandclay.co.uk



10

SOCK KNITTING

31 January

During this sock workshop at Fibre + Clay in Knutsford, learn how to cast on and knit on four or five needles, shape the gusset, turn the heel and graft the toes. It costs £40 and includes lunch and a set of workshop notes. Plus, enjoy a 10% discount on yarns bought on the day! Visit www.fibreandclay.co.uk or call ☎ **01565 652035**.

GET IN TOUCH

If you're holding a knitting class, exhibition, workshop or other special event, send us the details at least 12 weeks in advance and you could get a free listing here. Send your event details and photographs to: **Out & About, Knit Today, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN** or email us at: knittoday@originpublishing.co.uk

How to add a *decorative edge* with Mary Hickmott



Mary Hickmott is a top expert who has been creating fabulous knitted treasures all of her life. Mary, who knits every day, teaches knitting and embroidery and believes that knitting plays a huge part in people's happiness.

In this month's masterclass, I'm going to show you how to add a decorative edge to any pattern to give it a lovely new look

Mary Hickmott

Every month we show you a **new technique**. Discover how to add decorative borders to any knitting pattern!



turn over to get started

BEFORE YOU START...

Do you have a favourite pattern that you use many times? Would you like to knit a decorative edge instead of the rows of ribbing? It may be easier than you think to do just this. Many stitch patterns can be used as borders of this sort. All that is needed is a little preparatory number work. Don't let these words put you off!

Write it out

Supposing the back of a jumper you want to knit needs you to cast on 93 sts. The pattern repeat you would like to work has 11 sts and you need a stitch at each end for the seam.

First of all, check the pattern repeat sequence and write it out for yourself to be sure it is centred on the 11 stitches of its repeat. For instance, the sequence K2, P2, K5, P2 will produce the same basic pattern as K1, P2, K5, P2, K1, but it is the second of these that is centrally balanced.

Your first pattern line in this case would become K1, * K1, P2, K5, P2, K1, repeat from * to last stitch, K1 and would sit on the work with the five knit stitches as central.

On a plain sheet of paper, draw a line and mark it 93 sts. Draw a central block to represent the central 11 sts of pattern and draw rough divisions to represent 11 st blocks each side of these. You can use squared paper if you wish, but this is not essential.



Step 1 - Plan how many stitches you will need to cast on

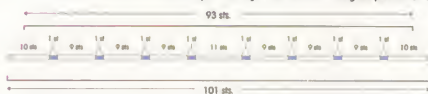
Cast on

Using the sample pattern line as above, you would need 4 extra stitches each side to fit the pattern correctly and to have it meet well at the side seams. So, even though your knitting pattern says to cast on 93 sts, cast on 101 sts and work your chosen border just as planned out. Most border patterns tend to draw the work inwards across the width and so can be worked on the main needle size



Step 2 - Start to plan your decreases

Step 3 - Evenly decrease to the original pattern size



throughout. If the border is of a rib type and you wish it to act as a rib would, you may choose to use smaller needles.

When you come to change to the stocking stitch for the rest of the work (changing needle size if necessary), decrease the number of stitches required to get back to the original number across the first row of knitting. In this case we have 101 sts but need to get back to 93 sts and so need to lose 8 stitches - four each side of the centre.

On your rough drawing, leave the centre 11 stitches intact then roughly place four 'Knit two together's to each side of it.

Plan your decreases

You have accounted for 11 central stitches and 16 stitches in the decreases; this is 27 sts. Take these away from the 101 sts that you have and you are left with 74 that need to be planned. They need to slot evenly each side of the centre, so you need 37 sts each side and there are four slots to be filled. A calculator, or a good, old fashioned times tables, will show you that $3 \times 9 = 27$, and you will have one over. So, to spread the stitches across the row, three lots of 9 sts and one of 10 will do nicely.

You can now work your decreasing row as K10, k2tog, (K9, k2tog) three times, k11, (k2tog, K9) three times, k2tog, K10, and you will be back to the correct number of stitches to continue with your favourite jumper.

You can, of course, work so that you knit some increases instead of decreases, if this seems more sensible when you are working your calculations for the border. Either way, the fewer the better, and this is always achievable.

Give it a try

Has this made your head spin? Sorry - It doesn't have to! When you are working for yourself, you do not need to write out anything much at all - you can use your rough drawings, mark them up with numbers of stitches and just do the knitting. Do give it a try sometime and you may just surprise yourself! As an illustration of how all this can work, I have devised a number of borders that could be used for one basic baby's jumper. If you have three or four spare balls of DK yarn, why not knit one up? If you don't have a baby in the family, charity shops will surely be pleased to have your efforts.

PATTERN DETAILS



YOU WILL NEED...

- ✓ Patons Fairytale DK in baby blue (shade 06310), as listed in sizing guide
- ✓ 3.25mm (UK size 10) knitting needles (optional for neckline ribs)
- ✓ 4mm (UK size B) knitting needles
- ✓ Stitch holder
- ✓ Two buttons about 1cm or 1/2in diameter for the two smaller sizes only

ABBREVIATIONS

K	Knit
k2tog	Knit two stitches together
M1	Make a stitch by picking up the loop that lies between the stitch and the next one, twist the loop onto the left-hand needle and knit into the back of it
P	Purl
psso	Pass the slipped stitch over
st(s)	stitch(es)
sl1	slip one stitch
ssk	Slip the next stitch to the right-hand needle knitwise, slip the following stitch to the right-hand needle knitwise, insert the left-hand needle into the front of the two stitches to place them so that you can knit into the back of them.
yfwd	Bring yarn forward between needles.

BACK OF JUMPER

Cast on and work chosen border (see pages 27-30).

Starting with a knit row (make adjustments to the stitch count according to the border being worked on this row) work in stocking stitch until back measures 14 (15; 16) cm or 5.5 (6; 6 1/4) in.

Shape armholes

Cast off 5 sts at beg on next two rows 47 (51; 55) sts.

Continue straight in stocking stitch until armhole measures 12 (13; 14) cm or 4 3/4 (5; 5 1/2) in.

Shape shoulders and back of neck

Next row: Cast off 4 (4; 5) sts. Knit until there are 7 (8; 9) sts on right-hand needle. Turn.

Next row: Cast off 3 sts at beginning of row, purl to end.

Cast off remaining 4 (5; 6) sts.

Slip centre 25 (27; 27) sts onto a stitch holder.

Next row: Rejoin yarn to remaining sts and knit to end.

Next row: Cast off 4 (4; 5) sts purl to end.

Next row: Cast off 3 sts at beginning of next row, knit to end.

Cast off remaining 4 (5; 6) sts.

FRONT OF JUMPER

Cast on and work chosen border.

Starting with a knit row (make adjustments to the stitch count according to the border being worked on this row) work in stocking stitch until back measures 14 (15; 16) cm or 5 1/2 (5; 6 1/2) in.

Shape armholes

Cast off 5 sts at beg on next two rows 47 (51; 55) sts.

Continue in stocking stitch until 8 (10; 10) rows fewer have been worked than on the back before start of shoulder shaping.

Shape front neck

Next row: K 14 (16; 18), turn.

Next row: Cast off 4 sts at beginning of row, purl to end. 10 (12; 14) sts.

Decrease 1 st at neck edge on next 2 rows.

Next row: Knit.

Next row (6-9mths and 1-2yrs only):

Decrease 1 st at neck edge, purl to end.

Work 4 further rows in stocking stitch, ending with right side facing.

Shape shoulder

Next row: Cast off 4 (4; 5) sts at beginning of next row.

Next row: Work one row.

Cast off remaining 4 (5; 6) sts.

Place centre 19 sts onto a stitch holder.

Next row: Rejoin yarn to the right-hand front neck and knit across the 14 (16; 18) sts.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: Cast off 4 sts at beginning of next row, knit to end.

Decrease 1 st at neck edge on next 2 rows.

Next row: Purl.

Next row (6-9mths and 1-2yrs only):

Decrease 1 st at neck edge, knit to end.

Work 4 further rows in stocking stitch.

Wrong side is facing.



Knit this for children up to 2 years old

SIZING GUIDE

		0-3 mo	6-9 mo	1-2 yrs
CHEST SIZE	in cm	16 41	18 46	20 51
CENTRE BACK LENGTH	in cm	10 25	11 28	12 31
NUMBER OF BALLS		3	4	4

"I have devised a number of borders that could be used when knitting this one basic baby's jumper. If you have three or four spare balls of Dik yarn, why not try to knit one up?"

Mary Hickmott
Knitwear Designer

Knit the bobble border shown here, or choose one of the other three borders on the next few pages



Shape shoulder

Cast off 4 (4: 5) sts at beginning of next row.
Work one row.
Cast off remaining 4 (5: 6) sts.

SLEEVES

Cast on and work chosen border pattern.
Change to 4mm needles if a finer set has been used.

Next row: Knit, making adjustments to the stitch number as advised for the border you have worked.

Next row: Purl.
Continue in stocking stitch, increasing 1 st at each end of the next and every following 4th row until there are 52 (58: 62) sts.
Continue straight until sleeve measures 16 (18: 20)cm or 6¼ (7: 8)in.

Place markers at each end of row.
With wrong side facing for the next row, work 7 more rows in stocking stitch.

NECKLINE

Note: You can use a smaller size of needle if you would like this to be as a normal elastic rib. Using the same size needles as the rest of the work is really rather nice for a baby's item though, as it produces a softer finish that still has enough elasticity.

Join right shoulder seam.
With right side facing, pick up and knit 11 (12: 13) sts down left side of front. Knit across the 19 sts held at the front, pick up and knit 11 (12: 13) sts from right side of front. Pick up and knit 4 sts from right side of back, knit across the 25 (27: 27) sts held at the back and pick up and knit 4 sts down left side of back. 74 (78: 80) sts.
Next row: *P1, K1, repeat from * to end.
Next row: *K1, P1 repeat from * to end.
Work 2 (4: 4) more rows in rib.
Cast off in rib.

Making up

Front left shoulder:
(For 0-3mnts and 6-9mnts sizes only)
Across the entire length of the front left shoulder, including the neckband, pick up and knit 11 (13) sts.
Row 1: *P1, K1, repeat from * to end.
Row 2: *K1, P1, yfwd, k2tog, K1, P1, K1, yfwd, k2tog, rib to end.
Work 3 further rows in rib.
Cast off in rib.

Back left shoulder

Pick up and knit 11 (13) sts across entire left shoulder, including the neckband.
Row 1: *P1, K1, repeat from * to end.
Row 2: *K1, P1, repeat from * to end.
Cast off in rib.

For 1-2yrs size, join left shoulder seam.
For 0-3mnts and 6-9mnts sizes, overlap the front button flap to the back flap. Oversew the edges of the flap together at the shoulder end, so that they can both be incorporated into the seam when the sleeve is attached.
Sew two small buttons in place for the smaller two sizes.
Fasten off all starting and finishing ends.
Set sleeves in place referring to the markers that were put in place. Remove markers.
Join side and sleeve seams.

Bobbie and rib border

This is the lovely bubbly border on the jumper shown in the main picture.

Back border

Using 4mm needles, **cast on** 57 (61:65) sts.

Row 1: K4, * MB, K3, repeat from * to last stitch.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K2 * MB, K3, repeat from * to last 3 sts, MB, K2.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: K1, *P1, K1, repeat from * to end.

Row 6: *P1, *K1, P1, repeat from * to end.

Row 7: As row 5.

Row 8: As row 6.

Continue in stocking stitch and main pattern.

Front border

Note: the placement of the bobbles is different on the front so that the back and front will sit together well at the side seams.

Using 4mm needles, **cast on** 57 (61:65) sts.

Row 1: K2 * MB, K3, repeat from * to last 3 sts, MB, K2.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K4, * MB, K3, repeat from * to last stitch

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: K1, *P1, K1, repeat from * to end.

Row 6: P1, *K1, P1, repeat from * to end.

Row 7: As row 5.

Row 8: As row 6.

Continue in stocking stitch and main pattern.

Sleeves border

With 4mm needles cast on 37 (41:41) sts.

Work pattern border as for front.

Continue in stocking stitch and main pattern.

Special neckline

Join right shoulder seam

With right side facing pick up and knit 11 (12:

13) sts down the left side of front, K19 from

stitches held at front, pick up and knit 11 (12:13)

sts up right side of front, pick up and knit 4 (4:3)

sts from left side of back. Knit to half way along

held sts on back, k2tog, then continue with

remaining sts, pick up and knit 4 (4:3) sts from

left back. 71 (77:77) sts.

Row 1: P1 *, K1, P1, repeat from * to end.

Row 2: K2 * MB, K3, repeat from * to last 3 sts,

MB, K2.

Row 3: P1 *, K1, P1, repeat from * to end.

Row 4: K1, * P1, K1, repeat from * to end.

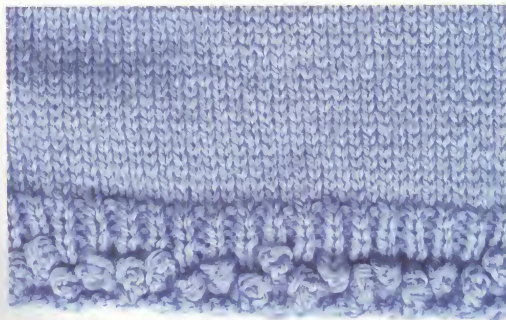
Row 5: P1 *, K1, P1, repeat from * to end.

Cast off in rib.

ABBREVIATIONS

MB

Make bobble. Insert right-hand needle into next stitch as if to knit it, draw through a loop and place it onto the left-hand needle (thus casting on one stitch). Cast on three more stitches in the same manner. Now knit the four stitches you have cast on and drop the original stitch into which the first cast on was made. The group of four stitches is on the right-hand needle. Taking one stitch at a time, lift the second, third and fourth stitches up over the first and off the needle. A single stitch remains on the right-hand needle and the bobble is complete.



Rows of alternating bobbles create a lovely decorative pattern



Turn the page for more borders





This border gives the appearance of cable without using any cable stitches

Mock Cable Rib

This pretty version of rib has just enough of a masculine look to it. As a border it needs a multiple of 6 sts + 1. So, if you are using it for another favourite pattern, adjust the cast on number to the nearest you can to meet with this, then re-adjust the stitch number when the stocking stitch is commenced either by decreasing a stitch or two, or increasing a stitch or two. The latter is generally preferable. If you would like the border to be elastic in the way a rib would normally be, use size 3.25mm needles instead of 4mm needles or the equivalent for the yarn you are using.

Note that the very first row when you are working into the cast on stitches is a bit awkward in a fumbly sort of way. It is well worth the slight effort. Also, finding the place between the stitches on the second row in order to make a stitch is less than obvious. Go to the next stitch on the left-hand needle and see where the yarn emerges to the right of it. Put the needle in and you will be able to lift the loop. If you purl this loop as it is, you may get a small decorative hole. If you would prefer not to have this, twist the loop around and purl the stitch from the back.

Back and front borders

Using 4mm needles **cast on** 55 (61:67) sts.

Row 1: P2 * sl1, K2, pss0, P3, repeat from * to last 5 sts, sl1, K2, pss0, P2.

Row 2: K2, *P1, M1, P1, K3, repeat from * to last 5 sts, P1, M1, P1, K2.

Row 3: P2, *K3, P3, repeat to last 5 sts, K3, P2.

Row 4: K2, *P3, K3, repeat from * to last 5 sts, P3, K2.

Repeat rows 1-4 twice more.

Next row: As row 1.

Next row: P2, *P1, M1, P4, repeat from * to last 5 sts, P1, M1, P3.

First row of stocking stitch:

Size 0-3mnts: K1, M1, knit to last st, M1, K1.

Size 6-9mnts: No increases or decreases.

Size 1-2yrs: Knit to the centre of the row, k2tog, knit to end.

Continue as for back or front from main jumper pattern.

Sleeves

Cast on 37 sts for all sizes.

Work the border rows as for the back.

First row of stocking stitch:

Size 0-3mnts: No increases or decreases.

Sizes 6-9mnts and 1-2yrs: K5, M1, K9, M1, K9, M1, K9, M1, K5.

You will now have 37 (41:41) sts and can continue in stocking stitch with the main jumper pattern.

"Many such patterns can be used as borders for your favourite patterns. All that is needed is a little preparatory number work. Don't let those words put you off, though!"

Mary Hickmott
Knitwear Designer

Lacy Diamonds border

Back

Using 4mm needles, **cast on** 57 sts.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Knit.

Row 3: K1, *k2tog, yfwd, repeat from * to last st, K1.

Row 4: Knit.

Row 5: Knit.

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: K1, *K5, yfwd, ssk, K4, repeat from * to last st, K1.

Row 8: Purl.

Row 9: K1 *K3, k2tog, yfwd, K1, yfwd, ssk, K3, repeat from * to last st, K1.

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: K1, *K5, yfwd, ssk, K4, repeat from * to last st, K1.

Row 12: Purl.

Increase row:

Size 0-3mnts: No increases or decreases. Knit the row.

Size 6-9mnts: K12, M1, (K11, M1) three times, K12.

Size 1-2yrs: K4, M1, (K7, M1,) seven times, K4.

Next row: Knit.

Continue in stocking stitch following main pattern.

Front

Work border as for back, then continue in stocking stitch following main pattern.

Sleeves

Using 4mm needles, **cast on** 37 sts.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Knit.

Row 3: K1, *k2tog, yfwd, repeat from * to last st, K1.

Row 4: Knit.

Row 5: Knit.

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: K4, * K3, yfwd, ssk, K6, repeat from * to end.

Row 8: Purl.

Row 9: K1 *K4, k2tog, yfwd, K1, yfwd, ssk, K2, repeat from * to last 3 sts, K3.

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: K4, * K3, yfwd, ssk, K6, repeat from * to end.

Row 12: Purl.

Increase row:

Size 0-3mnts: Knit (no increases).

Sizes 6-9mnts and 1-2yrs: K2, M1, *K11, M1, repeat from * to last 2 sts, K2.

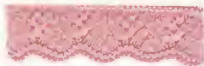
Next row: Knit.

Continue in stocking stitch and main pattern.

toptip

Work the borders in a different colour to the main pattern to create a unique two-toned effect

Use simple lace techniques to create pretty diamond-shaped holes in this border pattern



turn the page for one more border design



Scallop lace border

Back

Using 4mm needles, **cast on 57 (61:61) sts.**

Size 0-3mnts only:

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Knit.

Row 3: Knit.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: K2, *k2tog, K2, yfwd, K1, yfwd, K2, ssk, repeat from * to last st, K1.

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: K1, *k2tog, K2, yfwd, K1, yfwd, K2, ssk, repeat from * to last 2 sts, K2.

Row 8: Purl.

Row 9: As row 5.

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: As row 7.

Row 12: Purl.

Row 13: Knit.

Row 14: Knit.

Starting with a knit row, continue in stocking stitch following main pattern.

Sizes 6-9mnts and 1-2yrs:

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Knit.

Row 3: Knit.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: K2, yfwd, K2, ssk, *k2tog, K2, yfwd, K1, yfwd, K2, ssk, repeat from * to last 5 sts, k2tog, K2, yfwd, K1.

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: K1, yfwd, K2, ssk *k2tog, K2, yfwd, K1, yfwd, K2, ssk, repeat from * to last 6 sts, k2tog, K2, yfwd, K2.

Row 8: Purl.

Row 9: As row 5.

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: As row 7.

Row 12: Purl.

Row 13 (size 6-9mnts only): K12, (k2tog, K11) three times, k2tog, K12.

Row 13 (size 1-2yrs only): Knit.

Row 14: Knit.

Starting with a knit row, continue in stocking stitch following main pattern.

Front

Work border as for back, then continue in stocking stitch following main pattern.

Sleeves

Using 4mm needles, **cast on 39 (41:41) sts.**

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Knit.

Row 3: Knit.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: K2 (3: 3), *k2tog, K2, yfwd, K1, yfwd, K2, ssk, repeat from * to last st, K1 (2: 2).

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: K1 (2: 2), *k2tog, K2, yfwd, K1, yfwd, K2, ssk, repeat from * to last 2 (3: 3) sts, K2 (3: 3).

Row 8: Purl.

Row 9: As row 5.

Row 10: Purl.

Row 11: As row 7.

Row 12: Purl.

Row 13 (size 0-3mnts only): Decrease one stitch at each end of row. Knit.

Row 13 (sizes 6-9mnts and 1-2yrs): Knit.

Row 14: Knit.

Starting with a knit row, continue in stocking stitch following main pattern.

Next month

In next month's masterclass, Mary takes us beyond stocking stitch and shows us how simple stitch variations can give distinctive and stunning results.

On sale 29 January 2009



This intricate, wavy lace pattern would be perfect for a baby girl



Best buys

Treat yourself to something new for 2009 – our pick of knitting products is sure to tempt you!



Must-buy

Feed The Children's first knitting book, *Best Yarn Forward*, was a sell-out and now they've released another – so get in there quick! *Next Best Yarn* contains patterns from top designers, and projects include chunky bed socks, a cute baby elephant and an ingenious V-neck school jumper that can be knitted in 4ply or DK. The book will help to raise much-needed funds to help fight famine, and it's hoped that many knitters will donate their finished projects to the charity too. *Next Best Yarn*, costs just £3.50, plus £1.50 for P&P.

To order a copy, visit www.feedthechildren.org.uk or call 0118 9320095 for more information.



Beautiful beads

Give garments, accessories and knitted homewares a designer look with these fashionable beads from The Craft Factory. They're made from high-quality glass and plastic – pictured here are Glass Roselamps (which measure 1cm or 1/4in long and come in a pack of four), Glass Round Beads (1cm or 1/4in long and 30 per pack) and Shell Mix (12 beads in assorted sizes). Packs of beads start at £1.99 and are available from craft shops nationwide.

To find your local stockist, email fiona@sjcopy.co.uk or call 01344 301065 for more details



Wool flowers

Crochet and knit these beautiful flowers and leaves using the Janet kit from Alpaca Select. It includes patterns for eight flowers and four leaves, and three 50g balls of alpaca fleece. The kit costs £13.95 plus the special P&P rate of £1.50 for UK Knit Today readers!

For stockists, call 02476 411776 or visit www.alpacaselect.co.uk

KNIT TODAY
loves

Bear in a bag

You'll find everything you need to knit your own cute and cuddly bear in this Bear in a Bag kit from Patons (ref 55692901). It's worked in Patons Whisper, an exciting fur-look yarn, and even comes with a cute 'Handmade with Love' tag! The finished bear is suitable for children aged three and upwards. Buy the kit for £10.

To order one, call ☎ 0845 6049049 or visit www.johnlewis.com

New year, new bag!

Start the new year in style with one of these Shweshwe Bags from Injabulo. They're made from traditional shweshwe, a printed fabric that's often worn by women in South Africa on special occasions such as royal birthdays and national festivals. At approximately 45cm or 17½in square, these bags are big enough to hold your latest project, your needles and a copy of *Knit Today*. They're available in red, indigo or brown, and cost £15 each.

To order or find out more, visit www.injabulo.com



Twinkle, twinkle

Add a touch of brilliance to knitted projects with Bergere de France's Lurex Yarn. It's a blend of 62% metallic polyester and 38% polyamide, and comes in 25g bobbins that contain around 650m of yarn. It's also machine washable at 30°. Use it throughout your project, or simply to add a clever highlight detail here and there. The yarn is available in Meteorite (copper), Galaxie (silver), Libellule (white) and Etoile (gold), each costing £2.69 per bobbin.

To order, visit www.fiddlesticksdevon.co.uk

Use up your yarn

If you've got odds and ends of wool lying around, but don't know what to do with them, why not make pom-poms to attach to knitted hats and bags? You can make them in lots of different sizes with these Pom-Pom Makers from Pony, and kids will enjoy using them too! They're available from craft shops, priced at around £1.80.

To find your local Pony stockist, email fiona@sjcopy.co.uk or call ☎ 01344 301065



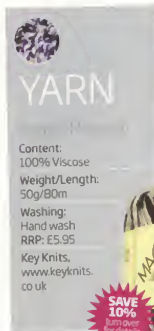
This one
pattern is
designed
to fit
everyone!

Fashion wrap



Author and award-winning designer Maggie Jackson is a popular figure in the knitwear industry, and sells her own range of quality yarns.

By Maggie Jackson



Content:
100% Viscose
Weight/Length:
50g/80m
Washing:
Hand wash
RRP: £5.95
Key Knits,
www.keyknits.co.uk

Bring together unconventional shapes and yarn textures to create a work of knitting art that will keep you both warm and in style

Knitting one item with four completely different kinds of yarn isn't something you see every day, but it creates a striking effect and makes a dramatic fashion statement. Who better to put this to the test than renowned knitwear designer Maggie Jackson, who has given us an eminently stylish and cosy winter wrap to knit during the post-Christmas lull?

Mix and match

Four yarns of differing textures are used to create a lovely, unique finish. Most of the wrap is knitted in Maggie's Merino Chunky, which is 100% soft merino wool.

Complementing this in shades of greys and creams are Maggie's Mist Slub (100% viscose),

Mohair Loop (90% mohair, 5% wool and 5% nylon) and Maggie's Wool Slub (100% wool). Each one is also available in other colours such as red, green, blue and pink, and can be purchased from Key Knits, www.keyknits.co.uk. Maggie's yarns have only recently come into the UK and Europe, so check out the rest of the range at Key Knits to give them a try.

Singular style

Maggie has used the different textures and colours in each yarn to their full potential, creating a lovely design with unique shaping. You can finish it off with a large button of your choice to keep it draped securely around your shoulders. This pattern will keep you on your toes as you follow the changes in stitch designs, yarns and stitch counts, but will be an exciting new project for you to start the new year with. Since the wrap has so much style on its own and only needs minimal accessorising, it's a time-saving wardrobe addition that will come in handy if you're ever late getting out the door on a chilly winter morning.



SAVE
10%
turn over
for details

turn over to start knitting



Introduce yourself to the unique style of Maggie Jackson with this fashionable winter wrap

PATTERN
DETAILSYOU
WILL
NEED...

- 4 balls of Magg's Merino Chunky in shade 05 (MC)
- 1 ball of Magg's Mist Slub in shade 14 (MS)
- 1 ball of Magg's Wool Slub in shade 04 (W)
- 1 ball Mohair Loop in shade 04 (ML)
- 6mm (UK size 4) knitting needles
- 2 large buttons

tension

Yarn used knits as chunky to the following tension:

Over Merino Chunky: 7-8sts and 12 rows to 5cm or 2in.

SIZING GUIDE

One size fits all
Longest point from tip to tip is approx 137.2cm or 54in
Widest measurement is approx 50.8cm or 20in

START
HERE!

STITCHES USED

Moss stitch

Row 1: K1, P1 to end of row.

Row 2: P1, K1 to end of row.

Loopy row

Leave a 7.6cm or 3in tail of W (ends will be sewn in when finished).

P1 in W, keeping W to front of work. K3 in MC, keeping MC to back of work. * Wrap W loosely over thumb on RS to form loop and P1 in W. K3 in MC. * Repeat from * to * across row and always P last st in W. Leave a 7.6cm or 3in tail of W.

KNIT THE SHAWL (ONE PIECE)

In MC, **cast on** 30sts and moss stitch for 2.5cm or 1in.

Next row: * Work in moss stitch for first and last 4 sts of following row, with st st in centre sts. Carry on in this way for 2.5cm or 1in.

Knit 4 rows in ML.*

Repeat from * to * twice more.

Next row: Using MC, moss stitch first and last 4sts and work st st in centre sts. Carry on in this way for 2.5cm or 1in.

Next row (RS): Using MC, **cast on** 10sts. Moss stitch for first 14sts and last 4 sts, with st st in centre sts. 40 sts. Carry on in this way for 2.5cm or 1in.

Next row (RS): Using MC, moss stitch for first and last 4sts and work st st in centre sts. Work 3 more rows in this way.

Next row (RS): * * Work Loopy Row.

Next row: Using MC, moss st first and last 4



sts, and P centre sts.

Next row: Moss stitch first and last 4 sts, working st st in centre sts for 5cm or 2in **

Repeat from ** to ** twice more, but on last repeat work st st in centre sts for 2.5cm or 1in.

Next row (RS): **Cast on** 10sts in MC, and moss stitch all sts for 4 rows. 50 sts.

Next row (RS): * * Moss stitch 4sts in MC, work Loopy Row to last 4 sts and moss stitch these in MC.

Next row: Moss stitch first and last 4 sts and P centre sts.

Next row: Using MC, moss stitch first and last 4 sts, working st st in centre. Carry on in this way for 2.5cm or 1in. **

Repeat from ** to ** once more.

Next row (RS): Using 2 strands of MS, work in moss stitch for 2.5cm or 1in.

Next row (RS): Moss stitch for first and last 4sts in MS, and work in st st in centre with MC. Work 3 more rows in this way.

Next row (RS): Using 2 strands of MS, moss stitch for 2 rows.

Next row: Moss stitch first and last 4 sts in MS, and work in st st in centre sts with MC. Carry on in this way for 3.8cm or 1½in.

Next row (RS): Moss stitch first and last 4 sts in MS. Work Loopy row over centre sts.

Next row: Moss stitch first and last 4sts in MS, and P centre sts in MC.

Next row: **Cast on** 10sts in MC and moss st for 2.5cm or 1in (60sts).

Next row (RS): ** Knit 4 rows in ML.

Next row: Moss stitch first and last 4 sts in ML and work in st st in centre sts with MC. Carry on in this way for three more rows. **

Repeat from ** to ** 3 times.

Next row (RS): Knit 4 rows in ML.

Next row: Using MC, moss stitch for first and last 4 sts and work st st in centre sts. Work 3 more rows in this way.

Next row: Using 2 strands of MS, **cast on** 10 sts and work moss stitch for 3.8cm or 1½ in. 70 sts.

Next row (RS): Using MC, work moss st for 2.5cm or 1 in.

Next row (RS): Using MC, cast off 10 sts and moss stitch to end of row. (52 sts)

Next row: Moss stitch 1 row.

Next row (RS): ** Work Loopy Row.

Next row: Using MC, moss st first and last 4 sts, and P centre sts.

Next row: Moss stitch first and last 4 sts, working st st in centre sts for 3.8cm or 1½ in. **

Repeat from ** to ** 3 times.

Next row: Using MC, work 4 rows in moss stitch.

Next row: Using MC, cast off 10 sts at beg of row. Moss stitch 4 sts, K to last 4 sts, moss stitch 4 sts. 42 sts.

Next row: ** Using MC, moss stitch first and last 4 sts and work st st in centre sts. Carry on in

this way for 2.5cm or 1 in.

Next row (RS): Using MC, cast off 4 sts, moss stitch 4 sts, K to last 4 sts, moss stitch 4 sts. ** Repeat from ** to ** twice more.

Next row: Using MC, moss st first and last 4 sts, and P centre sts. 30 sts.

Next row: Using W, work in moss stitch for 6 rows.

Next row (RS): Cast off 4 sts in W, cut W. Using MC, moss stitch 4 sts, K to last 4 sts, moss stitch 4 sts. 26 sts.

Keeping first and last 4 sts in moss stitch, work centre sts in st st for 3.8cm or 1½ in.

Next row (RS): Using MC, cast off 4 sts, moss stitch 4 sts, work in st st to last 4 sts, moss stitch 4 sts. Continue for 2.5cm or 1 in. 22 sts.

Next row: Cast off 4 sts in MC, cut MC. 18 sts. Using MS, work in moss stitch for 9 cm or 3½ in. Cast off.

MAKING UP

Sew in ends of W by looping over thumb to leave loop at each end of row, and secure. With MS, secure ends with double matching sewing thread so it doesn't unravel.

Attach buttons where shown in photograph and stretch a buttonhole 3cm or 1¼ in from edge of MS moss stitch section.

ABBREVIATIONS

beg	beginning
cm	centimetre(s)
in	inch(es)
K	knit
MC	Merino chunky yarn
MS	Mist slub yarn (use two strands together)
ML	Mohair loop yarn
P	purl
RS	right side
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch
W	Wool slub yarn
WS	wrong side

Reader offer

SAVE 10%

Go to www.keyknits.co.uk to purchase the yarn for this project, and receive a **10% discount and free P&P** (UK only)! Simply enter code KTMW63 in the 'further instructions' box to receive the discount when you order.

Next month

Expand your knitted wardrobe beyond sweaters and scarves and show off your curves in this stylish dress, accented in a wavy-patterned border.

Due date 29 January 2009



"You can wear this wrap with the button section in the front or back, or draping across and sitting on your hip."

Maggie Jackson,
Knitwear designer



The vibrant stripe pattern gives the wrap a rich texture



Maggie Jackson

Knitting resolutions

Are you making knitting resolutions this year? Amy Schroeter talked to seven *Knit Today* readers who are full of good intentions for 2009!

I will finish my projects

"My knitting resolution is to finish the projects I begin! It is all too easy to pick up multiple projects because there is such an amazing selection of patterns and yarns available. I once began an intricate blanket for a friend's baby - the baby is now 30 and he's never had

the blanket! With that in mind, 2009 will see me knitting lots of small items like gloves, bags and socks - if they're quick to knit then this resolution shouldn't be too hard to stick to. It will also be a very eco-friendly year for me and my friends because, for Christmas, I knitted them all a string bag - they're strong, washable and scrunch up really small."

Emma Garrett, Bristol



I will plan a club holiday

"I have around 40 items that aren't finished, so in 2009 I should really get on and complete them. I knit every day and am compelled to do it - because of this, I have over 100 jumpers in my wardrobe, most of which I've not worn! I'm always thinking of the next item I'm going to knit, even when I'm in the middle of a project. I've also started The Wool Sanctuary Knit Club (www.thewoolsanctuary.com), and I'd like to organise a holiday for us all in 2009."

Suzie Johnson, Bristol



Replace plastic bags with a knitted one

Knitting with chunky yarn gives fast results



Knit Club

Knit of the Year 2008



Suzie's knitting club will be going on holiday

I will challenge myself

"This year, I did my granny proud and knitted a jumper! I used a pattern from Sirdar Big Softie For Beginners. The seams don't match perfectly and it's a tad large for me (for some reason, I used five balls instead of the specified three - I'm not sure how that happened), but I'm so pleased with myself! I love the feeling of wearing something I've made, and getting impressed looks from my knitting buddies

has really made me want to knit more for my friends and family. My lovely old Granny Anna taught me the basics of knitting when I was about 10 and, since then, I've pretty much knitted scarves, hats or flowers, so to learn a bunch of new stuff like how to pick up stitches for sleeves and how to do mattress stitch for a flawless finish has been great. I found using large needles and chunky yarn made it loads easier to knit a bigger garment, and with really fast results - it has given me the confidence to tackle something more challenging next year."

Phoebe Partridge, West Wales





Jayne loves knitting toys for her grandkids



I will knit toys

"I like knitting for my grandchildren and other young relatives, and I'm particularly into knitting toys at the moment. In

2009, I will be finishing all the projects that I began before starting my Christmas projects. It will be really rewarding to see my grandchildren enjoying their knitted toys because I know they're the sort of thing they will always keep."

Jayne Derham, Bristol



Help a charity for babies by making a shawl

I will knit for charity

"I crochet items for a disabled children's charity, and knit or crochet for different

groups who work with babies. My resolution is to continue to help them - two I help at the moment are called For the Love of Babies and Bonnie Babies (www.bonniebabies.co.uk). I love knitting and crochet, and finding new things to do. For the new year, I'd also love to try Tunisian crochet."

Janet Burden, via email



Knitted scarves make unique, fun gifts

I will knit trendy scarves

"I was recently given a doll who's supposed to be a bride, but she is without a dress! So, I'll be knitting a dress and bouquet. I'd also like to knit scarves for my daughters with the trendy, funky yarn that's around now. I mainly get my supplies locally because it works out cheaper, but I might invest in some more luxurious yarn to start off the new year with a bang!"

Donna Lizza, via email



I will teach knitting

"I try new things all the time and the new year will be no exception! I enjoy knitting wired, beaded jewellery and I have sold a few of my creations. I learnt to do this from a book called *Knitting with wire* (£12.99, Interweave Press, ISBN: 1-931499-31-4) and I get the wire in all sorts of colours from the Scientific Wire Company (www.scientificwire.com). I've found that if you can knit, you can turn your hand to anything like this.

Something quite different that I also like to do is knitting with plastic bags. My knitting group, Yarn about Yarn, tried this one day and we made bags out of this unusual fabric. Basically, you strip the plastic bags into yarn and go from there. It's quite challenging but good for recycling. I will also be doing a workshop next year for lots of artists I met when I did an art trail displaying my work. They wanted to learn how to knit, so I thought I'd offer my services. I will also be showing them how to felt."

Eve Hessey, Saltford



Eve will be teaching others to felt like this

You'll need
just two
balls of yarn to
knit our socks

Lacy lovelies



Rita Taylor has been knitting since childhood, and began designing clothes by creating items for her dolls and teddy bears.

BY Rita Taylor

Practical form and a pretty design come together in these bright red lacy socks, a lovely gift to knit for little girls this winter

Receiving a pair of socks as a gift doesn't have to be boring, especially if they're bright and fun, like these! Little girls will love the delicate style and pretty lace stitching on these socks, making them a great gift choice this year. The lace design forms a lovely rib pattern, but the cuff is knitted in a standard knit 1, pur 1 rib to make sure that your socks don't fall down!

Cool cotton

Lace patterns need a delicate yarn to really show them off well, and your hard work deserves to be displayed as best as it can be. Berge de France's Coton Fifty is a lightweight cotton and microfibre

mix, which not only makes for a comfortable sock in most conditions, but also means that the intricate design shows through perfectly. Coton Fifty is available in 14 colours, including a bright lime green shade called Bourgeon (200.751) that would make a fun alternative to the bright red we've used here. If the little girl you're knitting these for loves all things pink, try Rose Indien (203.021), a vivid raspberry.

Take on the challenge

Coton Fifty is a very affordable yarn, and with only two balls needed at most to make this pair of socks, there's no excuse not to start this project. Lace knitting can be tricky to get into, but you'll get the hang of it quickly as you knit along. You may find you like it so much that you decide to knit these socks as knee-length rather than ankle-length.

If it's your first time working lace stitches or knitting with double-pointed needles, then make sure you allow yourself a bit longer to finish them. You'll be glad you did, and will no doubt be eager to start your next pair!

YARN

Berge de France
Coton Fifty

Content:

50% Cotton,
50% Microfibre

Weight/Length:
50g/140m

Washing:

Machine wash 30°
RRP: £2.29

Berge de France,
☎ 01606 883149



➔ turn over to start knitting

Children will love wearing these bright and cheerful, lacy socks!



PATTERN
DETAILSYOU
WILL
NEED...

- ✓ Bergere Coton Fifty, Ecarlate (shade 231.651), as listed in the sizing guide
- ✓ Set of four 2.75mm (UK size 12) double-pointed knitting needles

tension

Yarn knits as 4ply to this tension:
8sts and 10 rows to 2.5cm
or 1in square over stocking
stitch using 2.75mm needles

ABBREVIATIONS

K	knit
k2tog	knit two together
P	purl
p2tog	purl two together
patt	pattern
rem	remain(ing)
rep	repeat
sl	slip a stitch
ssk	slip, slip, knit (slip 1 st st, then 2 nd st, return both to left needle and knit 2 together)
st(s)	stitch(es)
yf	yarn forward

START
HERE!

Cast on 40 (48/56) stitches and arrange evenly on 3 needles.

Round 1: join into a ring and work 1 round of K1 P1 rib.

Work 9 rounds twisted rib on sts as set (i.e. work into backs of all knit stitches).

BEGIN PATTERN

Row 1: *K1, yf, sl 1, K2tog, pssso, yf: rep from * to end of round, being careful not to lose the yf at the end of each needle.

Row 2: Knit.

Rep these 2 rows for 8 (10/12)cm, 3 (4/4½)in or length required.

Start heel

Next row: K8 (12/12), turn.

Next row: P8 (12/12), then P11 (11/15) from third needle onto same needle.

Divide remaining sts onto 2 needles for instep then work heel:

Row 1: Sl 1, K18 (22/26).

Row 2: Sl 1, P18 (22/26).

Work these 2 rows for 16 (18/20) rows.

Turn heel

Next row: K12 (15/18) k2tog.

Next row: P6 (8/10) p2tog.

Next row: K6 (8/10) k2tog.

Rep last 2 rows until there are 7 (9/11) sts remaining.

Next round

Knit to end then pick up and K8 (9/10) sts along side of heel; pattern across all instep stitches



beginning and ending with K1; pick up and K8 (9/10) sts along other side of heel then K4 (5/6) from first needle; so ending at centre of heel.

Shape instep

Round 1: Knit.

Round 2: K to last 3 stitches of first needle, k2tog, k1; patt second needle; K1, ssk, K to end of third needle.

Rep these 2 rounds until 38 (46/54) stitches rem, then continue in pattern as set without further shaping until foot measures 10.5 (12/5: 14)cm, 4 (5/5½)in or length required.

Shape toe

Rearrange stitches onto 2 needles so that there are the same number on each needle.

Knit 1 round, then decrease at beg and end of each needle on alternate rounds until there are 14 (18/22) sts.

Graft or cast off stitches together. Fasten off and darn in ends.

SIZING GUIDE

	2 yrs	4 yrs	6 yrs
TO FIT UK SHOE SIZE	6-7	8-10	10-12
LENGTH OF LEG	in cm	3 8	4 10
LENGTH OF FOOT	in cm	4 10.5	5 12.5
NUMBER OF BALLS	1	2	2

toptip

While knitting these, remember that the leg and instep of the sock can be made as long as you need them to be, to fit all sizes

Freebies

GIVEAWAYS
WORTH
£530

Just look at all the goodies you could get your hands on. It's so easy to take part - just send in your entries today!

Craft4Crafters tickets

Craft4Crafters is back at the Westpoint Centre in Exeter from 23-25 January and as always, there will be lots to see, do and buy. The show boasts more than 100 local and national companies, offering a massive range of products for knitting, crochet, patchwork, quilting, lace making and much more. We have 10 pairs of tickets to give away, worth £12 per pair. Standard adult tickets cost £6 and standard concessions £5. Children under 15 enter free, when accompanied by an adult. To buy tickets or find out more, visit www.craft4crafters.co.uk or call 0117 9705007.

Send your entry to: Craft4Crafters giveaway, *Knit Today* 29, Origin Publishing, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN by 12 January 2009



Stitch & Creative Crafts tickets

The next Stitch & Creative Crafts Show takes place at Sandown Park Exhibition Centre from 22-25 January 2009 and we have 10 pairs of tickets to give away to lucky readers, worth a whopping £150! As usual, the show will cover all aspects of quality stitchcraft including knitting, crochet, patchwork, cross stitch and quilting, as well as a host of other creative crafts. Standard adult tickets cost £7.50 each and standard concessions are £6.50. Children under 16 enter free of charge, provided they're accompanied by an adult. Tickets can be bought on the day, or in advance at www.sccshows.co.uk, or by calling 01822 617744.

Send your entry to: Stitch & Creative Crafts giveaway, *Knit Today* 29, Origin Publishing, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN by 12 January 2009



Scarf kits

We have 10 of these fantastic Knit Your Own Scarf kits (ref 1010/0029) from Twilleys of Stamford to give away, worth £10 each. The kits include two balls of Wendy Rosy yarn, one ball of Sunbeam Paris Mohair, a pair of 12mm knitting needles, a pattern and basic knitting instructions. To find your local Wendy stockist, visit www.tbamsden.co.uk or call 01943 872264.

Send your entry to: *Knit Today* 29 giveaway, Thomas B Ramsden & Co, Netherfield Road, Guseley, Leeds LS20 9PD by 29 January 2009

Freedom lamps

You can use the Freedom Lamp from Daylight when knitting on the go, any time and anywhere. It can be mains or battery-operated, and the battery lasts for three and a half hours! Plus, its 13w energy-saving tube (equivalent to a standard 75w bulb) reduces eyestrain and glare, so you can work in optimal comfort. We have two Freedom lamps, worth £79.99 each, to give away!

Send your entry to: Daylight Lamp giveaway, *Knit Today* 29, Origin Publishing, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN by 29 January 2009

£160
OF PRIZES TO
GIVEAWAY

HOW TO ENTER

Write your name, address and email address on a postcard and send to the address given. Closing date is 29 January 2009, unless otherwise stated.

One entry per giveaway for each reader.

Winners will be drawn from a hat after the closing date. There are no cash alternatives. Employees of Origin Publishing and contributing companies are not permitted to enter. A list of winners' names is available on request.

Origin Publishing and the companies featured may use your details to inform you of products or services that may be of interest to you. If you DO NOT wish to be contacted about these products or services, please write 'no thanks' on your entry.

This pattern has
five sizes –
knit this in XS
up to XXL

Country fashion



As well as designing knitwear for many years and teaching at London College of Fashion, Sian also runs a knitting and crochet service called Artisan (www.artisan.me.uk)

BY Sian Brown

Bring a touch of rural charm to your wardrobe with this lacy tank top made using a modern variegated yarn. It's versatile for all seasons

Fashionable and practical, this tank top will become a favourite in your wardrobe all year round. The chunky texture and muted brown tone give it a classic country chic feel that will look right at home with tweed, tartan or just plain white or cream.

Our tank top adds the perfect finish to your outfit, no matter what the season. In winter, wear it over a plain jersey or polo-neck with boots; in spring and autumn you can wear it over a long-sleeve blouse or sleeved T-shirt with jeans; and in summer, wear it over a vest top or a sleeveless blouse with a tweed skirt.

Rustic yarn

Achieving the rustic texture and subtle stripes on this tank top is so easy. The yarn itself has naturally loose fibres for a furry, almost

felted feel, and it's gently dyed with a variegated colour so it forms its own subtle stripes as you knit.

The magical yarn in question is Tapestry by Rowan, which is a modern blend of wool and soybean protein fibre, making the tank top warm and soft with a gentle drape. If brown isn't quite you, Tapestry is available in nine other muted shades so you can choose one you prefer, from blue and green to cream.

Delicate design

Experienced knitters will enjoy the challenge of the delicate design on this top, which involves a lacy diamond-shaped pattern. If you're a newer knitter, it's the perfect chance for you to start creating lace patterns – If you're a bit nervous, then practise first with some spare yarn to build up your confidence before tackling the whole garment.

Whether you knit this tank top for yourself or a special loved one, you'll be pleased at how fast it knits up and how quickly it becomes a well-worn wardrobe favourite!



➔ turn over to start knitting



Perfect for work or smart-casual styles, this elegant tank top is sure to be a wardrobe success

PATTERN
DETAILSYOU
WILL
NEED...

- Rowan Tapestry in Antique (shade 173), as listed in the sizing guide
- 3.25mm (UK size 10) knitting needles
- 4mm (UK size 8) knitting needles
- 3.25mm (UK size 10) circular needle
- Stitch holder

tension

Yarn used knits as DK to the following tension:

22 sts and 30 rows to 10cm or 4in square over st st using 4mm (UK size 8) needles

START
HERE!

BACK

Using 3.25mm needles **cast on** 83 (93: 103: 113: **123**) sts.

Knit 3 rows.

Change to 4mm needles and start working the pattern:

Row 1: K1, (k2tog, yf, K1) twice * yf, skpo, K1, yf, sl1, k2tog, psso, yf, K1, k2tog, yf, K1, rep from * to last 6 sts, (yf, skpo, K1) twice.

Row 2 and every foll alt row: P to end.

Row 3: K1, (k2tog, yf) twice * K3, yf, skpo, yf, sl1, k2tog, psso, yf, k2tog, yf, rep from * to last 8 sts, K3, (yf, skpo) twice, K1.

Row 5: K2, (k2tog, yf) twice * K1, (yf, skpo) twice, K1, (k2tog, yf) twice, rep from * to last 7 sts, K1, (yf, skpo) twice, K2.

Row 7: K1, yf, skpo * K2, yf, sl1, k2tog, psso, yf, rep from * to last 5 sts, K2, k2tog, yf, K1.

Row 9: K2, yf, skpo * K1, yf, sl1, k2tog, psso, yf, K1, k2tog, yf, K1, yf, skpo, rep from * to last 9 sts, K1, yf, sl1, k2tog, psso, yf, K1, k2tog, yf, K2.

Row 11: K3 * yf, skpo, yf, sl1, k2tog, psso, yf, k2tog, yf, K3, rep from * to end.

Row 13: K2 * (yf, skpo) twice, K1, (k2tog, yf) twice, K1, rep from * to last 11 sts, (yf, skpo) twice, K1, (k2tog, yf) twice, K2.

Row 15: K1, k2tog, yf * K2, yf, sl1, k2tog, psso, yf, rep from * to last 5 sts, K2, yf, skpo, K1.

Row 16: P to end.

These 16 rows form the patt.

Continue in patt until back measures 21 (22: 23: 24: **25**)cm or 8¼ (8¾: 9: 9½: **9¾**)in from cast on edge, ending with a wrong side row.

Shape armholes

Cast off 6 (7: 8: 9: **10**) sts at beg of the next 2 rows. 71 (79: 87: 95: **105**) sts.



Dec one st at each end of the next and 3 (4: 5: 6: **7**) foll alt rows. 63 (69: 75: 81: **87**) sts.
Work straight until back measures 38 (40: 42: 44: **46**)cm or 15 (15½: 16½: 17¼: **18**)in from cast on edge, ending with a wrong side row.

Shape neck

Next row: Patt the first 18 (20: 22: 24: **26**) sts, turn and work on these sts for first side of neck shaping.

Dec one st at neck edge of next 4 rows. 14 (16: 18: 20: **22**) sts.

Work 1 row.

Shape shoulder

Next row: Cast off 7 (8: 9: 10: **11**) sts, patt to end.

Work 1 row.

Cast off rem 7 (8: 9: 10: **11**) sts.

With right side facing, slip centre 27 (29: 31: 33: **35**) sts onto a holder, rejoin yarn, patt to end. Complete to match first side.

FRONT

Work as given for back until 18 rows less have been worked than back to armhole shaping.

SIZING GUIDE

	XS	S	M	L	XL
BUST	in cm	32½ 83	36½ 93	40½ 103	44½ 113
LENGTH TO SHOULDER	in cm	15½ 40	16½ 42	17¼ 44	18 46
NUMBER OF BALLS		4	4	5	5

Divide for front neck

Next row: Patt 39 (44: 49: 54: 59) sts, k2tog, turn and work on these sts for first side of front neck.

Next row: P to end.

Next row: Patt to end.

Next row: P to end.

Next row: Patt to last 2 sts, k2tog.

Rep the last 4 rows 2 more times. 36 (41: 46: 51: 56) sts.

Next row: P to end.

Shape armhole

Next row: Cast off 6 (7: 8: 9: 10) sts, patt to end. 30 (34: 38: 42: 46) sts.

Next row: P to end.

Cont to dec at neck edge on next and every foll 4th row; at the same time dec one st at armhole edge on next and 3 (4: 5: 6: 7) foll alt rows.

Keeping armhole edge straight, cont to dec at neck edge on every 4th row until 14 (16: 18: 20: 22) sts rem.

Cont straight until front measures the same as back to shoulder, ending at armhole edge.

Shape shoulder

Next row: Cast off 7 (8: 9: 10: 11) sts, patt to end.

Work 1 row.

Cast off rem 7 (8: 9: 10: 11) sts.

With right side facing, slip centre st onto a holder, rejoin yarn to rem sts, skpo, patt to end.

Next row: P to end.

Next row: Patt to end.

Next row: P to end.

Next row: Skpo, patt to end.

Rep the last 4 rows 2 times more. 36 (41: 46: 51: 56) sts.

ABBREVIATIONS

alt	alternate
beg	beginning
cm	centimetre(s)
cont	continue
dec	decrease
foll	following
in	inch(es)
K	knit
k2tog	knit 2 stitches together
patt	pattern (continue in pattern stitches previously set)
P	purl
psso	pass slipped stitch(es) over
rem	remaining
rep	repeat
skpo	slip one, knit one, pass slipped stitch over (one stitch decreased)
sl1	slip one stitch
st st	stocking stitch
st(s)	stitch(es)
WS	wrong side
yf	yarn forward



The top just touches the waist, giving a sleek look.

Next row: P to end.

Next row: Patt to end.

Shape armhole

Next row: Cast off 6 (7: 8: 9: 10) sts, patt to end. 30 (34: 38: 42: 46) sts.

Cont to dec at neck edge on next and every foll 4th row; at the same time dec one st at armhole edge on next and 3 (4: 5: 6: 7) foll alt rows.

Keeping armhole edge straight, cont to dec at neck edge on every 4th row until 14 (16: 18: 20: 22) sts rem.

Cont straight until front measures the same as back to shoulder, ending at armhole edge.

Shape shoulder

Next row: Cast off 7 (8: 9: 10: 11) sts, patt to end.

Work 1 row.

Cast off rem 7 (8: 9: 10: 11) sts.

NECKBAND

Join right shoulder seam.

With right side facing, using 3.25mm circular needle pick up and K62 (64: 66: 68: 70) sts down left front neck.

K1 from centre front, pick up and K62 (64: 66: 68: 70) sts up right front neck. 7 sts down right back neck. K27 (29: 31: 33: 35) sts at centre

back, pick up and K7 sts up left back neck. 166 (172: 178: 184: 190) sts.

Row 1 (WS): K101 (105: 109: 113: 117), skpo, K1, k2tog, K60 (62: 64: 66: 68).

Row 2: K59 (61: 63: 65: 67), skpo, K1, k2tog, K100 (102: 104: 106: 108).

Row 3: K99 (103: 107: 111: 115), skpo, K1, k2tog, K58 (60: 62: 64: 66).

Cast off, decreasing on this row as before.

ARMBANDS

Join left shoulder and neckband seam.

With right side facing, using 3.25mm needles pick up and K122 (128: 134: 140: 146) sts evenly around armhole edge.

K3 rows.

Cast off.

MAKING UP

Join side and armband seams.

toptip

If you'd like to make the tank top a little longer, start with the back and add a few more rows before you reach the armhole shaping.

Next month

Knitted in Rowan's new organic cotton yarn, this simple sweater is lightly accented in a green embroidered leaf pattern – ideal for early spring knitwear.

On sale 29 January 2009



Rows of garter stitch border the intricate lace design.



Lynne Strode
has written books
on both knitting and
crochet – here, she
gives you advice about
sewing up seams.

knittoday

Q&A

get great advice from our knitting experts

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO SEW UP SEAMS?

Q Every time I sew up a garment, the seams are thick and chunky and uncomfortable. What method should I be using?
Lynne Strode, Basingstoke

A My favourite finish is a mattress stitch seam, sometimes called ladder stitch. This method gives a flat seam and makes it easy to match patterns as you work from the front of the knitting (right side facing). This method is where you pick up the bars between the first and second stitch from the edge of your knitting on one side, and then go across and do the same on the other side, creating a ladder of thread between your two pieces. Leave the stitches loose for a few repeats, then gently pull the yarn and as if by magic the knitting will slot together.



Mattress stitch seams together for a flat finish

HOW DO I JOIN SEAMS ON A GARMENT?

Q Is there a good order in which to join my knitted garments together?
Rhonda Madden, Failssworth

A A lot of patterns aren't very clear on sewing up – they often just tell you to 'sew up seams'. Usually, the best thing to do is start by sewing up one shoulder seam, then work your neck edging or collar. Sew the second shoulder seam, and the neck seam. Then, fit the sleeves into the armhole. Lastly, sew the side and underarm seams. If you're picking up the neck on a circular needle, sew both shoulder seams first. Or, if your pattern has very fitted sleeves, sew the side body and underarm first, and set the sleeve in after.

3 top tips on sewing up

1

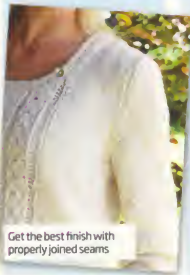
Work with short pieces of thread as long pieces tend to fray.

2

Sew up seams in the right colour. Use the same yarn you're knitting with to sew up the seams. If you're using a fancy yarn, buy a smooth yarn in a similar colour to use for sewing up.

3

Use pins to keep even seams. Pin your knitted fabric together with large glass-headed pins before sewing it all up.



Get the best finish with properly joined seams



Joanna Benner

A compact solution for
fascinating projects,
this stylish bag
helps you storing
your yarn stash.

★ STORAGE

- ★ Stylish knitting bags
- ★ Vacuum bags for yarn
- ★ Circular needle storage

STYLISH STORAGE

Q Could you find me a bag to keep my knitting in that doesn't look like a knitting bag? I like to take a project with me on the train but I need to look professional when I go to work.

Lisa Glennister, Swindon

A The Provence knitting bag stands open when you're knitting, so there shouldn't be any chance of your wool rolling around the train! Measuring 35cm at its widest point and 30cm high, it can hold wool, pattern and needles. Hand woven out of seagrass with a taffeta lining, it's both stylish and light to carry. Buy it for £26.95 from www.purlescence.co.uk

Just one of Lantern Moon's range of knitting bags.



SHRINK-WRAPPED YARN!

Q I live in a small flat, and my wool seems to be taking over any spare space I've got! Can you give me some advice on how to store it, please?

Olivia Chambers, Ramsgate

A Vacuum storage bags are just as good for wool as for clothes. If you put your yarn into a pillowcase before you put it in the bag, it will stop you sucking up a ball of wool when you take the air out! Store the bags of wool under the bed or in a suitcase - they're easy to remove when you need the suitcase again for your next holiday. A pack of two vacuum bags (code ABR53016SB) is available from <http://shop.packmate.co.uk> for £14.99. The large bag measures 54x85cm and the medium bag is 34x49cm.



CIRCULAR SOLUTION

Q I keep my circular needles in a basket but they get tangled, especially when I'm searching for something else. Are there any holders that I can buy?

Molly Deacon, Derby

A There are special cases that you can buy. Molly, but I keep my circular needles in their original bags and then pop them in to an expanding file - two to a compartment. Buy this pretty file at www.wilkinsonplus.com for £1.70 or you can pick one up from the stationary aisle when you next do your weekly shop.



Buy a matching ring binder to keep your patterns in

knittoday
Q&A

3 top tips

1

If circular needles have been stored tightly coiled, they might need to be straightened - soaking them in warm water does the trick.



Straighten tightly-coiled needles with some warm water

2

For an artistic look, keep your needles in a glass vase with a ball of wool at the bottom.

3

Separate your yarn into piles of 4ply, DK, Aran, etc before you put it away - this makes it much easier when you are next looking for a particular yarn weight for a knitting pattern.



Mary McManus
is living in New York with
her husband and two
children, and is a
knitting enthusiast.

- ★ Increasing within stitch patterns
- ★ How to work an increase stitch
- ★ Bar increases

knittoday Q&A

MOSS INCREASE

Q I am working a sleeve pattern in moss stitch and need to increase at the sides. How do I know what sort of increase to work? Tanya Hill, Hounslow

A The same query arises if working in 1x1 rib. Look at the stitch you are about to work. If it would be a knit stitch, purl into the back of the stitch first, then knit into it and continue along the row. If the first stitch would be a purl one, knit into the back of the stitch first then purl it and continue along the row. At the other end of the row, work the stitch as it presents itself and then work a knit or purl stitch into the same one to keep the moss stitch or rib correct.



Increases in moss
stitch patterns are
easier than they seem



A bar increase gives
a decorative pattern

IS THERE A RIGHT BAR INCREASE?

Q I like to use a bar increase about three stitches in from the edge of my work. When I need to do this at each side of a sleeve pattern, I can't work out how to make the bar sit to the right of the stitch instead of the left, and so it looks out of place. Do you know what I can do about this? Liz Doherty, Mirfield

A A bar increase is one worked as knit into the front and then into the back of the same stitch (inc). A small decorative bar forms to the left each time. It is not possible to make the bar go to the right of your stitch, but it is possible to arrange your stitches so that it looks perfect. For an increase with the appearance of three knit stitches each side of the bars, work K2, inc, K to last 4 sts, inc, K3.

TWIST OR NOT?

Q When I increase a stitch by lifting the strand that lies between stitches, should I twist the loop before working into it or just knit into the loop as it is? Cheryl Bowles, Greenock

A If you lift the loop onto the left-hand needle and then knit into the back of it, you will have, in effect, twisted it. This will also close the hole and make an invisible increase. If you knit into the loop just as it is, you will still increase a stitch, but a hole will then appear in the work. Holes can be decorative, however, so simply decide which effect you prefer.



Work an increase in this way

3 top tips on increasing

1

Work any increase stitches at least one stitch in from the edge. This way, you will retain a neat set of stitches at the edge, that can be easily seen when working mattress stitch for sewing up any seams afterwards.

2

For a simple increase, lift the stitch just below the next one you are to work onto the left-hand needle, and knit. At other end of row, lift the stitch just below the one you have just worked onto the left-hand needle and knit.

3

Sometimes trying to insert the right-hand needle into the back of a loop to knit into the back of it is a bit tricky. Remember that inserting the left-hand needle into the front of the stitch on the right-hand needle will generally put both needles in just the right position, and is then often much easier to do.



Dorothy Wood
is an expert crafter,
respected for her
knowledge and creativity.
Here, she tells us about
crocheting jewellery.

- ★ The best wire to use
- ★ How to crochet a beaded rope
- ★ Crochet-covered beads

knittoday
Q&A

3 top tips

1

You can't unravel wire crochet easily, so try not to make mistakes. If you do need to pull out some stitches, join on a fresh piece of wire rather than trying to crochet with kinked wire.

2

When you crochet with wire, make sure you pull the hook through until the stitch is the exact size you want, because you can't adjust it on the next stitch as you normally would when crocheting with yarn.

3

If you haven't crocheted with wire before try using a larger hook than suggested until you are comfortable with the technique.

WHICH WIRE?

Q Do you need to use special wire to crochet jewellery?

Sarah Kelley, Norwich

A You can buy wire specially packaged for crocheting jewellery, but general craft wire either enamelled or silver-plated is quite suitable for crocheting. Wire that has a copper core is best for crocheting as the wire is quite pliable. Look for size 0.3mm or 28-30 gauge (swg). You will need a reel of wire, rather than a coil as crocheting does tend to use a lot of wire. www.wires.co.uk has lots of different colours of craft wire at only £8.50 per 500g reel.



Crocheted jewellery has an intricate beauty

HOW DO I CROCHET A BEAD ROPE?

Q I've tried crocheting a rope using seed beads but can't get past the first two rounds. Do you have any tips?
Cynthia Miller, Doncaster

A It is tricky working out where to put the hook in subsequent rounds. Rather than stringing size six or eight seed beads with alternating colours throughout, try changing the colour every six beads. Make the first loop with six beads, so you'll be working each round in a different colour. Use a stiff nylon thread such as Superlon bead cord so the stitches hold their shape. Once you've learnt the technique you can use all one colour of bead, if you like. Superlon Bead cord 18 is available from www.makejewellery.co.uk for £1.80 per reel.



Buy Superlon bead cord from www.makejewellery.co.uk

CROCHET BEADS

Q I've seen gorgeous beads that have been covered in crochet, and I'd love to have a go myself.
Vera Gower, Tamworth

A Search Press has a superb book - *Crochet Jewellery: 40 beautiful and unique designs*, which has crochet-covered beads on the front and explains how to make them inside. It's £12.99 from www.searchpress.com





Diane Hollands
has had fun surfing the internet to bring you the very best websites and online stores.

Sponsored by

craftbubble.com
The UK's favourite crafting community

Knit today!
originpublishing.co.uk



Knit Rowan
www.knitrowan.com

It's the moment that knitters everywhere have been waiting for... Rowan's brand new website has just launched! And is it all you've dreamed of? Let's see: a gallery featuring the latest collections for you to browse, a behind the scenes area so you can see what it's like to be on-location at a Rowan fashion shoot, top tips and design ideas for using up your yarns, plus a monthly tutorial where you can learn a new technique or simply brush up on old skills - we think it ticks all the boxes! You can also find out where the latest Rowan events are taking place and stock up on Rowan products too, all at the click of a mouse!

☒ **Best for:** Knitting fashion

Websites

Discover the knitting sites we like most this month, for buying and learning on the World Wide Web



Purple Linda Crafts
www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk

If you love to crochet, this is the site for you. Proprietor, Linda, is passionate about crochet, as well as other needlecrafts, and she says it's her aim to get more people crafting in the UK. Her products include ranges for crochet, as well as knitting and felting, from big names such as Patons, Twilleys, Sirdar, Wendy, Elle, King Cole, Clover, Prym, Coats, Anchor, Crystal Palace, Mission Falls and DMC. She also has the largest selection of crochet patterns and books in the UK - this really is a one-stop shop for all your crochet needs, whether you're a beginner or an expert. We love Linda's Pom Pom Makers too - great for using up scraps of yarn. Take a look yourself today!

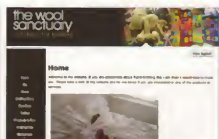
☒ **Best for:** Crochet supplies



Artesano Yarns
www.artesanoyarns.co.uk

Artesano Ltd is a family-run business based in Reading, and it wants to bring ethically produced yarns, patterns and needles to knitters everywhere. On the site, you'll find Artesano's own range of alpaca yarns and patterns to knit with them. You can browse the patterns by item, designer or yarn, so once you've found a good yarn you can knit everything you possibly can with it! You can't purchase products directly from this site, but you can find somewhere to buy in the comprehensive stockist section, which is broken down into counties. While you're on the site, browse the range of Brittany birch knitting needles and Manos Del Uruguay yarns, too, and see what takes your fancy.

☒ **Best for:** Pattern range



The Wool Sanctuary
www.thewoolsanctuary.com

This stylish site is a celebration of knitting and a haven for knitters. It's run by Suzie Johnson, who is in love with knitting and has knitted every day since she was five years old! She launched her site and turned her home into The Wool Sanctuary this year, fulfilling her lifelong dream. Knitters can visit her at the sanctuary in Weston-super-Mare by appointment to chat, knit away and browse her range of Rowan and Debbie Bliss yarns. If you can't get to the Wool Sanctuary itself, you'll enjoy browsing the site for products to buy. See what workshops she has coming up - even if you live too far away to pop in to the sanctuary, surely you can make a special trip to learn a new skill!

☒ **Best for:** Knit appreciation

Have a go at
cabling
with this fab
natural yarn

On the wild side



Marie Wallin has been an important in-house designer at Rowan for many years and is enthusiastic about yarns that are organic, sustainable and ethically sourced

BY Marie Wallin

Your man will love this rugged cable-knit jumper, designed by Marie Wallin for Rowan, using Purelife British Sheep Breeds wool

Harsh winds and low temperatures are no match for this super-warm jumper that will become your man's winter favourite, whether he's out gardening, tidying up the garage (we hope!) or going for a walk with you.

The Gunnerside jumper is named after a Yorkshire town with a long history of handknitting, and the jumper will certainly keep him warm in similarly remote locations.

Chunky charm

This design comes from Rowan's book *Purelife: The British Sheep Breeds Collection*, and it uses a chunky cable pattern that forms diamond shapes that give the jumper a

more rugged feel. The cable pattern is fairly straightforward to create, although you will need to work from a chart so it's best for knitters with a bit of experience. The ribbing at the sides and collar is added afterwards and ensures a good, insulating fit on your man.

As nature intended

In every possible way, this jumper is made for warmth - It's knitted using Rowan's Purelife British Sheep Breeds wool. It's a natural, undyed wool yarn, spun from four native British sheep breeds: the Bluefaced Leicester, the Suffolk, the Jacob and the Welsh Mountain sheep. An eco-friendly, annually renewable resource, the natural colours of these four breeds form the five natural shades in the range, including cream and various shades of grey. Any of these inherently masculine shades will look great knitted up into this jumper. Plus, the wool has a natural lanolin content that gives it a soft sheen as well as extra warmth, so you can be sure your man stays snug, no matter how cold it gets this winter.



YARN

ROWAN'S PURELIFE
BRITISH SHEEP BREEDS
WOOL

Content:
100% British wool
Weight/Length:
100g/110m
Washing:
Handwash
RRP: £5.95

Rowan,
☎ 01484 681881,
www.knitrowan.com



turn over to start knitting



Knit an all-natural British wool
jumper with a rugged cable pattern

PATTERN
DETAILSYOU
WILL
NEED...

- 100g balls of Rowan Purelife British Wool in Steel Grey Suffolk (shade 954), as listed in the sizing guide
- 7mm (UK size 2) knitting needles
- 6mm (UK size 4) knitting needles
- Cable needle
- Stitch holder

tension

Yarn used knits as chunky to the following tension:

17 sts and 20 rows to 10cm or 4in measured over patt using 7mm needles.

START
HERE!

BACK

Using 6mm needles, **cast on** 86 (92; 98; 104; 110) sts.

Row 1 (RS): K0 (1: 0: 1: 2: 3: 4:), P0 (2: 2: 2: 2: 2:), *K2, P2, rep from * to last 2 (1: 0: 2: 4:) sts, K2 (1: 0: 2: 4:) sts.

Row 2: P0 (1: 0: 2: 4:), K0 (2: 2: 2: 2:), *P2, K2, rep from * to last 2 (1: 0: 2: 4:) sts, P2 (1: 0: 2: 4:) sts.

These 2 rows form rib. Work in rib for a further 12 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Change to 7mm needles.

Beg and ending rows as indicated and repeating the 28 row patt rep throughout, cont in patt from chart for body as follows:

Work 6 rows, ending with RS facing for next row. Keeping patt correct, cast on 4 sts at beg of next 2 rows. 94 (100; 106; 112; 118) sts.

Cont straight until back measures 41 (42; 41; 42; 41) cm or 16 (16½; 16; 16½; 16) in, ending with RS facing for next row.

Sleeve armholes

Keeping patt correct, cast off 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows. 88 (94; 100; 106; 112) sts.

Dec 1 st at each end of next 2 rows. 84 (90; 96; 102; 108) sts.

Cont straight until armhole measures 24 (25; 26; 27; 28) cm or 9½ (9¾; 10; 10½; 11) in, ending with RS facing for next row.

Sleeve back neck and shoulders

Next row (RS): Patt 22 (25; 27; 29; 31) sts and turn, leaving rem sts on a holder.

Work each side of neck separately.

Dec 1 st at neck edge of next 3 rows and at same time, cast off 9 (11; 12; 13; 14) sts at beg of



2nd of these rows.

Cast off rem 10 (11; 12; 13; 14) sts.

With RS facing, rejoin yarn to rem sts, cast off centre 40 (40; 42; 42; 44) sts, patt to end. Complete to match first side, reversing shapings.

FRONT

Work as given for back until 12 (12; 14; 14; 16) rows less have been worked than on back to beg of shoulder shaping, ending with RS facing for next row.

Shoulder neck

Next row (RS): Patt 32 (35; 38; 40; 43) sts and turn, leaving rem sts on a holder.

Work each side of neck separately.

Cast off 8 sts at beg of next row. 24 (27; 30; 33) sts.

Dec 1 st at neck edge of next 3 rows, then on 2 (2; 3; 3; 4) alt rows. 19 (22; 24; 26; 28) sts.

Work 3 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Sleeve shoulder

Cast off 9 (11; 12; 13; 14) sts at beg of next row. Work 1 row.

Cast off rem 10 (11; 12; 13; 14) sts.

With RS facing, rejoin yarn to rem sts, cast off

SIZING GUIDE		SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	XLARGE	XXL
TO FIT CHEST	in cm	40 102	42 107	44 112	46 117	48 123
LENGTH TO SHOULDER	in cm	55.5 22	59 23	62.5 24½	64.5 25½	66 26
SLEEVE LENGTH	in cm	54 21½	56 22	58 23	60 24	62 25
NUMBER OF BALLS		11	12	12	13	14

centre 20 sts, patt to end.

Complete to match first side, reversing shapings.

SLEEVES (MAKE 2)

Using 6mm needles, **cast on** 36 (38; 40; 42) sts.

Row 1 (RS): K1 (0: 0: 1: 1), P2 (0: 1: 1: 1), *K2, P2, rep from * to last 1 (2: 3: 3: 1) sts, K1 (2: 2: 0: 0), P0 (0: 1: 0: 0).

Row 2: P1 (0: 0: 0: 1), K2 (0: 1: 1: 1), *P2, K2, rep from * to last 1 (2: 3: 3: 1) sts, P1 (2: 2: 0: 0), K0 (0: 1: 0: 0).

These 2 rows form rib.

Work in rib for a further 12 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Change to 7mm needles.

Begin and ending rows as indicated and repeating the 28 row patt rep throughout, cont in patt from chart for sleeve as follows:

Inc 1 st at each end of next and foll 3 (3: 3: 1: 1) alt rows, then on every foll 4th row until there are 82 (86; 90; 94) sts, taking inc sts into patt.

Cont straight until sleeve measures 54 (56; 58; 60) cm or 21¼ (22; 22¾; 23) in, ending with RS facing for next row.

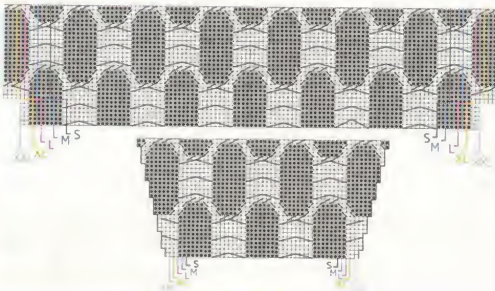
Shaping top

Keeping patt correct, cast off 3 sts at beg of next 2 rows. 76 (80; 84; 88) sts.

Dec 1 st at each end of next 5 rows, then on foll 3 alt rows, then on foll 3 rows, ending with RS facing for next row. 54 (58; 62; 66) sts.

Cast off 15 (16; 17; 18) sts at beg of next 2 rows.

Cast off rem 24 (26; 28; 30) sts.



Making up

Press each piece, blocking it out and following the instructions on the ball band, omitting the ribs.

Join right shoulder seam using back stitch, or mattress stitch if preferred.

Neckband

With RS facing and using 6mm needles, **pick up and knit** 12 (12; 13; 13; 14) sts down left side of neck, 20 sts from front, 12 (12; 13; 13; 14) sts up right side of neck, then 46 (46; 48; 48; 50) sts from back. 90 (90; 94; 96; 100) sts.

Row 1 (WS): P2, *K2, P2, rep from * to end.

Row 2: K2, *P2, K2, rep from * to end.

These 2 rows form rib.

Work in rib for a further 5 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Cast off in rib.

Side opening binders (all 4 alike)

With RS facing and using 6mm needles, **pick up and knit** 18 sts along row-end edge of side seam openings, between original cast-on edge and 4 cast-on sts at top of opening.

Beg with row 1, work in rib as given for neckband for 5 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Cast off in rib.

Slip stitch row-end edges of side opening borders to cast-on sts at top of openings.

Place centre of cast-off edge of sleeve to shoulder seam. Match decreases at beg of armhole shaping to decreases at top of sleeve.

Sew sleeve head into armhole, easing in shapings and leave side seams open along edges of side opening borders.

ABBREVIATIONS

alt	alternate
beg	beginning
C4B	slip next 2 sts onto cable needle and leave at back of work, K2, then K2 from cable needle
C4F	slip next 2 sts onto cable needle and leave at front of work, K2, then K2 from cable needle
Cr3L	slip next 2 sts onto cable needle and leave at front of work, P1, then K2 from cable needle
Cr3R	slip next st onto cable needle and leave at back of work, K2, then P1 from cable needle
cluster 4	take yarn to back (RS) of work, slip next 4 sts from left needle to right needle, bring yarn to front (WS) of work, then slip same 4 sts back onto left needle, take yarn to back (RS) of work and slip same 4 sts onto right needle again
cm	centimetre(s)
cont	continue
dec	decrease
foll	following
in	inch(es)
inc	increase
K	knit
patt	pattern
P	purl
rem	remaining
rep	repeat
RS	right side of work
st(s)	stitch(es)
WS	wrong side of work

SYMBOL KEY

- ☐ K on RS, P on WS
- P on RS, K on WS
- ▢ C4B
- ▢ C4F
- ▢ Cr3R
- ▢ Cr3L
- ▢ cluster 4

Knit club

If you're looking for a knitting club in your area, you're at the right place! And if you have a club, see page 62 to find out how to get it listed here and win a prize

South East

London Stitch 'n' Bitch meets weekly as notified on MySpace or by mailing list. Email stitchandbitch@gmail.com, london@googlemail.com or visit <http://groups.myspace.com/stitchandbitchuk>

Crafty Yarn meets on Monday evenings, every three weeks from 7-9pm, alternately in Caversham and Tilehurst at members' houses. For more information, contact Abby on [0118 9431144](tel:01189431144) or email info@crafty-yarn.co.uk

Crafty Knitters meets every Wednesday afternoon from 1-4pm at Sussex Crafts, 45 High Street, Cuckfield, West Sussex. For more information, call [01444 455611](tel:01444455611) or visit www.sussexcrafts.co.uk

Welwyn Wednesday Knitters meets on the second Wednesday of the month, from 10.30am-12.30pm at Campus West Theatre Coffee Shop. For more details, call [07808 969379](tel:07808969379) or email catherine.young@btconnect.com

Knit Club Tuesday meets every Tuesday from 5-7pm in the fabulous, You Don't Bring Me Flowers Cafe at 15 Staplehurst Road, Mither Green. For details, call [020 82972333](tel:02082972333) or visit www.youdontbringmeflowers.co.uk

Knit 'N' Natter Knitting Group gets together twice a month on Thursdays, at the South Lodge Hotel, Brighton Road, Horsham. For more info, email mary.escott@btinternet.com or call [01403 269625](tel:01403269625)

Knit 'N' Natter meets on the first Saturday of the month, 2-4pm at the East Grinstead Library, West Street, East Grinstead. For more info, email pnf@funnellp.fsnet.co.uk



Herts Knattering Knitters & Stitchers

meets at St Paul's Church Hall, St Paul's Close (off Cranes Way), Borehamwood on alternate Mondays from 6.30-9pm. For more details, call [07931 569927](tel:07931569927) or email hks0@ntlworld.com

Pantiles Knitters meets on alternate Wednesdays and Thursdays, in the last week of the month, at the Shiraz Restaurant, The Corn Exchange, 49 The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells.

I Knit London knitting group meets on the second Wednesday of the month, in various pub venues, with members of all ages and abilities. For more information, visit www.iknit.org.uk

Maidstone Knitters meets at Ethos, 9 Gabriels Hill, Maidstone on the second Saturday of each month, from 1-3pm. For more information, call [01622 851885](tel:01622851885) or email hawkeylodge@btinternet.com

Craft Club meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at Rainham Bookshop, 17-23 Station Road, Rainham, Gillingham. For more details, call [01634 371591](tel:01634371591)

KTOG group meets fortnightly above the community centre on the High Street in Baldock, North Hertfordshire. Meetings run from 7-9pm and entry is £3.50. For more information, contact info@kto.org.uk

London Crochet Club meets every fortnight, for both knitting and crochet. Venues vary but members will be contacted by email with the details. For more

info, visit <http://knitting.meetup.com/1271/> or email organiser Helda Panagary, at heldap@hotmail.co.uk

Basingstoke Knit in & Natter Group meets on the second Thursday of the month at Pack Lane Wool & Crafts, from 2-5pm. Entry is £3. For more information, call [01256 462590](tel:01256462590) or email zoe@packlanewool.co.uk

Knit 'N' Natter meets on Wednesdays from 10am-12pm and Thursdays from 6-8pm at Pandora, High Street, Guildford. For more info, call Karen on [01483 828771](tel:01483828771) or [07983 718431](tel:07983718431), or email karengoring@hotmail.com

Avicraft Knitters Club meets on Thursdays at Avicraft Wool Shop, 15 Chatterton Road, Bromley, from 6.30-9pm. To find out more, contact Sharon on [020 84600818](tel:02084600818)

Craft Club takes place every Tuesday morning from 10am-1pm at 40 Tabard Street, London. £1 to attend. Call [020 74071123](tel:02074071123)

Knitaholics meets on the third Thursday of the month from 7.30-9.30pm at St Michael's Church, Chadwick Hall, Gidea Park, Romford. For more information, call [01708 347263](tel:01708347263)

Swampy Ewe Club meets fortnightly in Sheerness and monthly on Saturday evenings. For details of next meeting, email Rowena at cookiegur13@hotmail.com





com or call = 01795 668239. For more information, visit <http://clik.to/swampyeweknitted>

Maxine Woolls Knit Club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 6-8.30pm at 68 Banstead Rd, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey. To register, call = 020 86615625 or send an email to enquiries@maximewools.co.uk

Knit and Natter Group meets on the first Friday of the month in Ray Lodge Church Hall, Woodford Green, from 10.30am-12pm, 25p per session. For more information, email knitandnatter@ntlworld.com

Braintree Knitting Club meets on the first and third Monday of the month at 7.30pm, at Philles Café. For more details, call = 01376 329582 or visit <http://braintreknittinggroup.blogspot.com>

Creative Needlecrafts meets every Thursday from 7-8.30pm for knitting, crochet, needlecrafts, tea and a giggle, at the Community Centre, Tanners Brook School, Southampton. For further details, contact Jenny on = 02380 789510

Puri and Dean meets on the second Monday of the month in the bar of the Stratford Picturehouse. For information, call Ro on = 020 8519 1812 or Claire on = 07960 419010

Uckfield Knit and Natter meets at the Coffee House, Uckfield, East Sussex, on the first Wednesday of the month from 10am-12pm. For more information, call Ann on = 01825 767757 or email akd@f2s.com

Arcade Knitters meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at the Fabric Store, The Arcade, Littlehampton, from 2-4pm, and on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at Parkside Church Hall, St Floris Road, Littlehampton. Space is limited at the Fabric Store but we'd love to welcome newcomers to Parkside Church Hall. For more details, call Julie on = 01903 717648 or email jbptl@tesco.net

Moonstone Knitting Circle meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 11am-1pm at Moonstone Yarns, The Old Watermill Shopping Village, Off Faldo Road, Barton-Le-Clay MK45 4RF. For further details, call Patricia on = 01582 983176 or log on to the website at www.moonstoneyarns.co.uk

Frinton Knit 'N' Natters meets every Friday

from 1-3pm at Fire Your Inspiration, 14 Old Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex. £2 per session including drink. For more info call Michelle Oppizzo-Scott on = 01255 866814 or = 07986 667411

South West

Crumbs Knitters meets Wednesdays from 7-9pm at Crumbs Tearooms, 11A Gloucester Road, Coleford. For more information, contact Joanne on = 01594 811177 or email joanne@crumbcraftsngifts.com

Knitting Group In Crediton meets every Friday morning in term time from 10am-12pm at the Sir Redvers Buller pub, High Street, Crediton. For information, call Sarah on = 01363 777850 or email carolneward69@btinternet.com

Bath Stitch 'N' Bitch meets at the Kindling Coffee Shop from 2-5.30pm on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Tuesday group meets in the Crystal Palace Tavern at 7pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. For details, email jessicapollitt@hotmail.com

In Tarsia meets at the Hall for Gwinear on the fourth Thursday of the month from 2-4pm. For more info, contact Beth on = 01736 850739 or at bethsaundry@btinternet.co.uk

Knit Club @ Cribbs is held twice monthly at John Lewis, Cribbs Causeway on Thursday evenings. For more details, contact Fiona Winning on = 0117 9591100

The Wool Sanctuary Knit Club meets at 12 Trevelyan Road in Weston-super-Mare on the third Saturday of the month, from 10am-4pm. For more info, call Suzie on = 01934 414906 or visit www.thewoolsanctuary.com

Bristol Knit meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at The Watershed, from 7pm.

Shaldon Knitting Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 1 Horse Lane, Shaldon, Devon from 10am-12pm and 6.30-9pm. For more details, contact Alison on = 01626 873615 or alison@lanapura.com

Swindon Stitch 'N' Bitch meets at Manor Pub, Haydon Wick, Swindon on Mondays from 7.30-10pm. For details, email traceymajor@ukonline.co.uk

K15IP1 meets fortnightly from 8-9.30pm in the Wellesley Arms Pub, Sutton Bengier, Chippenham. For more information, call Ed on = 07773 254004 or Nic on = 07788 425475, or visit <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/k15ip1>

Bournemouth & Poole SNB Knitting & Needlecraft Group meets on the first and third Thursday of the month at 8pm, at the All Fired Up Ceramic Café, Bournemouth. Visit the group pages at www.raveley.com for info, email paulclarebelinda@aol.com or call = 07973 440897

South West Knit and Natter Group meets every Wednesday from 2-4pm at Village Yarns, 7



Whilton Village Road, Exeter, Devon. For more information call Jane or Pam on = 01392 670443 or email villageyarns@yahoo.co.uk

Wells Knitting Centre Knitting Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm, at 5 Mill Street, Wells. Open to all, from experienced knitters to complete beginners.

Woolcake Workshop meets every six weeks for workshops and a group get together in Cheddar. For further details, call Debbie on = 01749 870460, Julie on = 01934 743263, or visit www.woolcake.co.uk

Midlands

Knit and Chat is every Wednesday from 10am-12pm and Thursdays from 5-7pm at Yarn, 55 Chilwell Road, Beeston, Nottingham. For info call = 0115 9253606 or visit the website at www.yarn-in-notts.co.uk

Birmingham Stitch 'N' Bitch meets every Saturday, from 11am-1pm, at the Edwardian Tea Rooms, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Loughborough Knit & Chat meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 7pm, at each others' homes. Call = 01509 261845 or email trish.moore@virgin.net

Knit Lincs Lincoln Branch gets together on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at the Drill Hall Café in Freeschool Lane, Lincoln, from 2-4pm. Call = 07799 650691 or email nicola_i_sharp@hotmail.com

Knit Lincs Sleaford Branch gets together on the first Saturday of the month at the Hub Craft Centre, Navigation Wharf, Sleaford from 2-4pm. Contact Fiona on = 01526 832074 or email fionabaker@tesco.net

Stitch 'N' Bitch Towcester meets on the first Thursday of the month from 7.30-9pm at The Dolphin Café, 175 Watling Street. To find out more, call = 01327 860159 or email backinbalance@hotmail.com

Coventry Nit Wits meets every Wednesday 7-9pm at the Town Crier Pub, Corporation Street. Contact Jane on = 07765 060991 or email xelphus@yaho.com

United Knitting meets 11am-1pm every Saturday at the Pump House Environment Centre, Barbourne, Worcester. For more details, email unitedknitting@hotmail.com

Knit club focus

Turn to page 63 for *Club of the Month*
We meet the members of the Nifty Needles club



Knit & Natter meets at Busy Hands, Nottingham Road, Borrowash, Derby on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 1.30-3pm. Call Margaret White on **01332 721638** or email minwhit@ntlworld.com

Knot Just Knitting meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 7-9pm at St Andrew's Church Rooms, Crown St. Kettering. E2 to cover room, coffee, tea, etc. Contact Michele Hale **07734 861916**

Diss Knit & Natter Group meets on the first Thursday of the month at Diss Wool & Craft Shop, Norfolk from 6.30-9pm. Call **01379 650640** or sales@disswoolandcrafts.com

Linslade Knitters meets for all types of stitching at Home Cottages, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard. For more details, email jeannepizzey@yahoo.co.uk

Betty Knitter's Knit and Natter meets every Wednesday at the Greyhound Inn, New Buildings, Hinkley from 1-3pm. Come along for friendly conversation at this relaxed and informal group. For information call Liz on **01455 446728**

Knitterati Knit & Natter meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 10am-12pm and 2-4pm at The Smeltings, Furnace Bank, Great Gate, Staffordshire Moorlands. For more information, call **01889 507552** or visit www.knitterati.com

Knitting and Crochet Group meets in Tamworth on Thursday afternoons at The Flarepath Club, Lichfield Street. All levels welcome. Call Jane Partridge on **01827 130688** or email knitting@cwweb.free-online.co.uk for more information.

Nifty Needles meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Kidlington Baptist Church, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2DS from 7.30-9.30pm. Call Sharon Povey on **07894 098587** or **01296 770921** for details.

Knit and Yarn meets every Friday from 12-2.30pm at Knit and Yarn, 3 Upper Olland Street, Bungay, Suffolk NR35 1BD. For more information visit www.knitand yarn.co.uk, email gillybell@knitand yarn.co.uk or call **01986 895400**

RK Knit Chicks meets Tuesdays from 2-3.30pm and Wednesdays from 11.30am-1pm at Raptor Knits, The Heath, St Ives Road, Lynnhurst, PE28 3BT. For more information call Lynne Pope on **01487 840011**, email info@raptorknits.co.uk or visit www.raptorknits.co.uk

North

Patchworks Knit and Natter meets every other Wednesday from 1-3pm in the Upstairs at Patchworks in Chorley, Lancs. For details, call Louise on **01257 277324**

Warrington Knit N Natter meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at Starbucks inside Borders on Riverside Retail Park from 7pm. For more information, call **07974 652208** or email katieewig@hotmail.com

Cast-on Knitters meets every Monday 4-7pm in Starbucks, Centenary Square in Bradford. For more details, email Orlyssa at knits.galore@googlemail.com or call **01274 394390**

New Brighton Knitters meets Tuesdays from 7.45-10pm at Made, 36 Seaview Road, Wallasey, Merseyside. For more information, call **0151**

Knit by the lovely Devon coast with Shaldon Knitting Group

6300391 or log on to the website at www.newbrightonknitters.co.uk

Brimstange Babes meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Voirrey Embroidery Centre, Brimstange, Warral from 5-7pm. For details, call **01244 328828**

The Sewing Knitting Shop Club meets up on Tuesdays from 7-9pm at Sew In, 46 Market Street, Marple, call **0161 4272529**, and Wednesdays from 7-9pm at Sew In, 741 Wilmslow Road, Didsbury, Manchester, call **0161 4455861**

All Saints Knit & Knitter meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Vicarage in Liverpool, call **0151 2283581** or email kathleencooper1@yahoo.co.uk

West Kirby Knit & Natter meets every other Friday at 11am for one hour at The Library, Concourse, West Kirby, Wirral. Contact Jean on **0151 6258943**

Knit & Natter in Middlesbrough meets Saturday mornings at Nature's World Tea Rooms in Ladgate Lane from 10-30am. Contact Sandra on **01642 312426**

Knit + Stitch meets every Thursday from 7-9pm at The Griffin Community Centre in Barrow-in-Furness and has 20+ members. For details, call Valery Foden on **01229 822150**

Attica's Knifty Knitters meets every Monday from 6.30-8.30pm at Attica Wool Shop, 3 Garden Street, Hebden Bridge. Contact Carol or Jean on **01422 844327**

Cassop Knit Natter Group meets Thursdays, 1-3pm at the Cassop Community Centre, Cassop, County Durham. Entry is £2, refreshments are provided. For details, call Lesley on **01429 821102**

Northern Ireland

Glen Gallery Knitting Club meets on the first Thursday of the month from 10am-12pm at Glen Gallery, 48 Fenagh Road, Cullybackey, Co Antrim, Northern Ireland BT43 5PH. For more information, call **028 25880354**

Scotland

Gourock Stitch 'N' Bitch meets Thursdays from 8pm at Flava Coffee Shop, Kempock St, Gourock. All

welcome. Contact Karen at karen@cragwood.co.uk

Loving Hands Charity Knitting Club meets Mondays from 1-3pm in Kelly Community Centre and Monday evenings from 7-9pm in The Staff Club, Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy. Call **01383 802777** or visit www.lovinghands.org.uk

Wooly Wags meets every Thursday at 7.30pm at Swansacre Playgroup, Kinross. For more details, contact Anna on **01577 864232**

Knit and Chat meets Wednesdays at 22 Maitland Court, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, Scotland G84 7EE. For info, call Rosemary on **01436 6761780**

Wales

Knit Wits meet on Monday mornings from 10am-1pm at Yr Aelwyd Cwmfelin Community Centre, Jenkins Terrace/Maesteg Rd, Cwmfelin, Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan and costs £3 to attend. For more information call Anne on **01656 737323** or email institch4@hotmail.com

WRITE TO US!

Send your club details and photos to knittoday@originpublishing.co.uk or write to us (address on page 63) and you could win a prize the whole group will enjoy! Our club of the month will win Funky Chunky Knitted Accessories and Funky Chunky Crochet Accessories, worth £12.99 each (published by David & Charles, **0870 9908222**).



This issue's star club has found a new meeting place and is looking for members – particularly knitters and crocheters – to fill the extra space!

■ CLUB OF THE MONTH

Nifty Needles

This needlecraft club was formed a mighty 18 years ago by Peggy Bendall, and has changed over the years, though perhaps most significantly during the last 12 months. Members used to meet at their local school, but when the hire charge increased considerably, they were forced to rethink club logistics. A hike in membership prices would have only driven attendees away, so they underwent a search for an alternate venue.

Not easy

Club secretary Sharon Povey explains that finding a new venue was a long, hard slog, but after much exploration of the local area they finally struck gold. "The Kidlington Baptist Church had a choice of two rooms with decent lighting, comfortable chairs and reasonable hire charges," she says. "But then we hit a potential sticking point – we needed to have our own public liability insurance, something we'd never had to organise before! However, it was cheaper than we thought and, although we now have to pay a bit more for

membership than we did last year, I think we all agree that it's worth it!" she smiles.

A new name

The new venue means that they're now able to have a club with more than 20 members too, and that's what prompted their name change from the Gosford Sew & Sews to Nifty Needles this past August. Membership is now open to fans of all needlecrafts, including knitting and crochet. "Basically, if it's a needlecraft that's worked by hand and can be done on your lap or a small table, then you can join us!" says Sharon.

Despite the busy time they've had finding a new premises, the club has still managed to keep supporting ROSY (Respite Care for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters), by making things for the charity to sell on its market stall. They're looking for more help with this, more members to fill their new venue, and more knitters and crocheters to bring greater diversity to the group. So if you're in the area, why not pop along and see what you think?

“Finding a new venue was a long, hard slog, but after much exploration of the local area, we finally struck gold”



FIND OUT MORE!

The members of Nifty Needles meet up on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at Kidlington Baptist Church, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2DS from 7.30-9.30pm. For more details call Sharon Povey on ☎ 07894 098587 or ☎ 01296 770921.

Why not go along to their next meeting with your latest knitting or crochet project?

PUZZLES

Take a quick break from your knitting to enjoy our fun puzzles. Send in the answer to our crossword and you could win a prize!

connections

Pair up the sixteen blocks to make eight words. In each case, a central letter is missing. One word is already completed to give you a start, and once you have discovered the eight words, see if you can rearrange the mystery letters to spell out the name of a spring-flowering bulb.

JUST FOR FUN

ARD	—	■	—	ADD
FLA	MAN	D	ATE	TAL
INE	—	■	—	HER
MAN	—	■	—	LEI
ATE	—	■	—	PIV
URE	—	■	—	BES
OKE	—	■	—	NEL
ESS	—	■	—	STE

MYSTERY WORD : _ _ _ _ _

sudoku

Simply fill in the blank cells so that every row, column, and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

6								
8		3			5		9	2
			9		7	4		
4						5		1
7		1	2		3	6	8	
			6		4	3		9
9		2						7
	5				1	2		



ANSWERS
page 82

did you
know?

Our new teddy bears emerged in 1900, named after Fredrick Tevery (long with a punter with a bear).





WIN!
£50
OF PRIZES!

ABAKHAN
FASHION, HISTORY & INSPIRATION

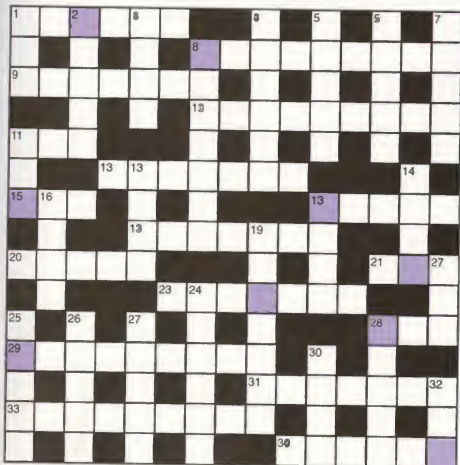
quick crossword

Solve the clues, then rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell the name of a European ski resort (8)

We're giving you the chance to win one of five fantastic goodie bags from Abakhan, worth £10 each. Abakhan has been trading for almost 60 years, offering a fantastic selection of yarns, fabrics, crafts, trimmings and haberdashery. Shop online at www.abakhan-onlineshop.co.uk to find exciting deals such as 85% off all Sirdar yarn packs (all 500g packs £5.99, all 1000g packs £11).

How to enter

Simply send in the name of the European ski resort revealed in the shaded squares and the first five out of the hat will win! Send your answers on a postcard or the back of an envelope to: *Knit Today* Crossword 29, 9th Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN. Don't forget to include your name, address and telephone number. Usual competition rules apply - see page 18.



ACROSS

- 1 Chequered cloth (6)
- 8 US actor who starred in the movies *Monkey Business* and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (4,5)
- 9 Pear-shaped fruit (7)
- 10 Dutch port (9)
- 11 No matter what or which (3)
- 12 Ability, distinction (7)
- 15 Fundamental, essential (3)
- 17 Shady recess (5)
- 18 Progress, improvement (7)
- 20 Confidential statement spoken in undertones (5)
- 21 Enjoyment, pleasure (3)
- 23 Comfortable relaxing chair (7)
- 28 Plant seed (3)
- 29 Police officer (9)
- 31 Reserve for a specific purpose (7)
- 33 TV medical drama series (5,4)
- 34 Britain's longest river, which flows through England and Wales (7)

DOWN

- 1 Afternoon meal (3)
- 2 Spacious (5)
- 3 Distant, remote (4)
- 4 Bowl-shaped opening of a volcano (6)
- 5 Concur, see eye to eye (5)
- 6 Showy, garish (5)
- 7 Rhythmic jazz dance (5)
- 8 Mediterranean island (7)
- 11 Diving bird with black and white plumage (3)
- 13 Dull pain (4)
- 14 South American country (4)
- 16 Simple, uncomplicated (4)
- 17 Cow shelter (4)
- 19 Oprah - - - , US talk-show host (7)
- 22 Original, fresh (3)
- 24 Set of clothes (6)
- 25 Small, specialised gap in the market (5)
- 26 Hymn of praise (5)
- 27 Unusual gemstone, also female name (5)
- 28 Milk drink (5)
- 30 Genuine, authentic (4)
- 33 Family, close relatives (3)

Knits up in
one piece
for an easy
home project

Cuddly cushion



Designer Rita Taylor is fascinated by the way different effects can be achieved by working stitches in different ways, and enjoys creating items that are fun and unique.

By Rita Taylor

If you're looking for the purr-fect gift to knit for a cat lover, then try our cute 'Sebastian' cushion. It's knitted with just four balls of yarn!

Give your needles a break from knitting the norm, and curl up with our friendly feline, Sebastian! He's a fun cat-shaped cushion that people of all ages can enjoy. Keep him yourself or surprise a fellow cat lover with a new cuddly friend.

means that you can use up those spare balls of Tapestry you may have lurking in your stash.

The high quantity of wool in Tapestry means it is rich and warm, and the soybean fibre gives it a lovely sheen. Together, the two components make a beautiful, decorative yarn that suits most projects on your 'to knit' list.

Tabby stripes

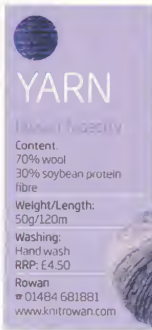
Rowan's Tapestry yarn, a combination of wool and soybean protein fibre, is ideal for this project as its gentle variegation produces perfect tabby stripes. There are 10 shades in the Tapestry range, each with the same muted colour changes in browns, greens, greys, purples and creams. You only need four balls

of whichever colour you choose, which is not only good for your budget, but perhaps also

Simple shaping

You may think that shaping Sebastian's pointy ears and curving back will take a lot of skill, but it's really done through simple increases and decreases. Any knitter who knows how to add and reduce stitches will be able to knit this cushion without difficulty - there is a lot of row counting to keep track of when you get to Sebastian's back, but careful notes or use of a row counter will help you there.

Making up the cushion is straightforward as well - simply sew it along the top and sides. When filling it, take care that you distribute the stuffing evenly to avoid any lumps and bumps. We hope you enjoy knitting our cat cushion, and can't wait to see the finished results!



➔ turn over to start knitting



Keep your lap warm this winter
with our adorable knitted cat

PATTERN
DETAILSYOU
WILL
NEED...

- 4 balls of Rowan Tapestry DK in Whirlpool (shade 176)
- Small amounts of DK yarn for embroidery in green, pink and black
- 3.75mm (UK size 9) knitting needles
- 30cm narrow ribbon (optional)
- 250g of stuffing

tension

Yarn used knits as DK to the following tension:

24sts and 32 rows to 10cm
or 4in on 4mm (UK size 8)
needles over stocking stitch

ABBREVIATIONS

dec	decrease
inc	increase
K	knit
P	purl
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch

START
HERE

FRONT AND BACK

The entire cushion is worked in one piece, starting at the front edge.

Cast on 200sts and work 2 rows st st.

Dec 1 st at each end of next 8 rows, then next 2 alternate rows.

Work 16 rows on these 180 sts.

Inc 1 st at each end of next and following alternate row.

Work 1 row, inc at each end of every row to 200sts.

Work 2 rows.

Cast off 36sts at beg of next 2 rows.

Work 61 rows, increasing 1 st at each end of 12th, 20th, 26th, 30th, 34th, 37th, 40th, 44th and 48th rows.

Next row: Dec 1 st at each end.

Work 3 rows. Repeat these 4 rows 3 times more.

Dec 1 st at each end of next 3 rows.

Cast off remaining sts.



MAKING UP

Fold the cat in half and stitch seams, leaving a gap for the stuffing. Embroider the features using the photo as a guide. Stuff firmly, making sure the stuffing is pushed into the corners and ears. Sew remaining seam with mattress stitch.

Make tail

Measure 15 strands 1 metre long. Fold in half and stitch to top of body. Divide into 3 sections, then plait. Tie on a ribbon to hold ends in place.



January

YOUR STARS WITH **Lesley Anderson**

Aquarius

(21 January - 19 February)



Last year's spiritual progress and supernatural experiences continue this month - when you need something, it just seems to magically appear! Just enjoy it, and make some knitting wishes (perhaps for some of the gorgeous yarns on page 74) and who knows what might happen...

Key date: *Start a new project on the 15th*

Pisces

(20 February - 20 March)



Your year begins with 80 percent of the planets in the independent sector of your horoscope, so you don't need to settle for anything less than total perfection. It's a great time to go it alone with a knit project - ignore advice and even redesign the pattern if you must, to make it fit just right!

Must knit: *For the love of the fish*

Aries

(21 March - 20 April)



Your year begins with most of the planets right in the middle of a yearly career peak, but don't neglect your knitting - it will offer much-needed relief. The Solar Eclipse on the 25th suggests that new friends will

be coming into your life, so it's the perfect time to join a new knit club (see page 60 to find one).

Top tip: *For the love of the fish*

Taurus

(21 April - 21 May)



Love and health may be stuck in the status quo this month, but on the 5th, Jupiter crosses your Midheaven to bring you happy career opportunities. This is the ideal time to turn your knitting into a money-making venture, either for your benefit or for a much-deserving charity close to your heart.

New project: *For the love of the fish*



Capricorn

(22 December - 20 January)

As a new year begins, you need to spend some time looking back at the past year. This will help you to see what you have achieved and what you need to do next. The 15th is the best time to do this, as it is the day when the sun is in the sign of Capricorn. This is a good time to look back at the past year and to see what you have achieved and what you need to do next.

New project: *A simple scarf or shawl*

Gemini

(22 May - 21 June)



Give more attention and energy to your working life this month, but be careful of doing too much thinking and talking because this can drain your energy. A very simple project will help you unwind

this month - how about a simple scarf or shawl? If you're going abroad, love is on the cards...

Key date: *For the love of the fish*

Cancer

(22 June - 23 July)



Your year begins in the midst of a yearly social peak - you've never been more popular among your group of knitting friends. However, your interests will soon shift to deeper personal

transformations - perhaps learning a new skill will revive your knitting enthusiasm!

Must knit: *For the love of the fish*

Leo

(24 July - 23 August)



Health is an important priority this month and your knitting will lift up your entire life. Not only will it help to relax you, you'll also find smug satisfaction in completing tricky technical bits to achieve

success. You'll love sharing your new know-how with other knitters from the 19th.

Top tip: *For the love of the fish*

Virgo

(24 August - 23 September)



You begin the year needing help from friends and family, perhaps with a tricky knitting project. Remember, it's ok to ask for help and once you've overcome that technical hurdle, you'll find yourself in

the midst of a personal pleasure peak! Knitting should be enjoyed and not laboured over.

Must knit: *For the love of the fish*

Libra

(24 September - 23 October)



This month, your 4th House of home and family is ultra-powerful, so spend more time at home with family members, enjoying the things you love - knitting, curling and maybe some crochets! It will also pay

to do some life laundry and get into the right emotional harmony for the year ahead.

Key date: *For the love of the fish*

Scorpio

(24 October - 22 November)



Your financial planet makes a major move on the 5th, while the social sector of your chart hots up. With the Solar Eclipse on the 26th, you may be moving or making a major renovation - this is a

great opportunity to have a good clearout of old knitting stash and make way for new goodies!

New project: *For the love of the fish*

Sagittarius

(23 November - 21 December)



Your financial planet, Saturn, is showing the importance of finance in your life, so scour the Internet for discounts and special offers. On the 19th, you enter a yearly communication peak, so take

the opportunity to convey your knitting skills to others while your mind is sharp and clear.

Top tip: *For the love of the fish*



Diane Hollands has found the best gloves and mittens patterns for you to knit and wear this winter.

Best patterns

The weather might be getting cold, but you can keep your hands toasty warm with a pair of knitted gloves or mittens – choose one from our top pattern picks!

Unless you plan on staying inside all winter, you'll need some gloves or mittens to keep your hands warm when the temperatures drop! Mittens are easier to make than gloves, so if you're a knitting newcomer, why not try a pair of these first? The potentially tricky part of knitting gloves is working the fingers, but the rest of gloves (and all of mittens) use everyday skills that you've probably tried before, such as increasing, decreasing and ribbing. We chose these patterns because we love what you can make with them, and we think the instructions are easy to follow. Gloves and mittens are gifts that can warm hearts as well as hands!

“Gloves and mittens use everyday skills you've probably tried before”

Jezebel by Harriet Hart

Jezebel is supplied as a kit that contains the pattern, yarn, beads and instructions you need to make these gloves. The luxurious gloves are knitted in Silk Stralis, which is a blend of 50% silk and 50% wool and the kit is available with Ruby Red, Brown, Green, Pink, Kingfisher Blue or Coral yarn. It's suitable even for relative newcomers to knitting as the pattern is fairly straightforward: worked on 3.5mm needles, the cuff is made using a basic knit 1, purl 1 stitch, and the back of the hand is worked in stocking stitch. The triangle shape is achieved by decreasing on each row, which is explained clearly, along with how to attach the beads. Finally, the finger loop is very quick and easy to make too. With a few hours' knitting each evening, you could complete a pair of these gloves in a week! Buy the kit for £14.50.



KNIT TODAY
loves

Beedebo by Jeanette Sloan

These beaded gloves are worked in two 50g balls of Artesano's Hummingbird 4ply, which is perfect for lightweight clothing and accessories and is made from 100% pure, superfine alpaca. You'll also need a set of 2.75mm double pointed needles and 224 small beads. Artesano Hummingbird is free from lanolin, which makes it hypoallergenic as well as suitable for those with sensitive skin. The yarn is available in 12 melange shades that create stripy effects when knitted, and these gloves (which are knitted in Kingfisher shade) take full advantage of the variegated nature of the yarn. If you'd prefer to knit these gloves in a solid colour, you can use Artesano 100% Alpaca 4ply, which is interchangeable with Artesano Hummingbird 4ply in all patterns. This pattern costs around £2.20.



To order, log on to www.kangaroo.uk.com or call
☎ 01273 400030 for more information

Visit www.artesanoyarns.co.uk or call ☎ 0118 9503350
to find your nearest local stockist

Fingerless gloves by Laughing Hens

These gloves from Laughing Hens are perfect for both beginners and experienced knitters to complete. They're super-stylish, and the pair pictured here are knitted in classic shade of yarn -

Hazeinut Rooster Almerino DK. The yarn is soft and warm, and the pattern itself is very easy to work, since there are no finger holes to knit! You could finish it in just one or two evenings. You'll need 4mm needles for this project, and they're worked in easy stocking stitch. The edging can be done in two different ways - by making a row of double crochet along the top and the bottom edges, or by picking up the stitches with your knitting needle and knitting one row of garter stitch at the top and the bottom. The pattern costs £2.

To order, visit www.laughinghens.com or telephone 01829 740903 for more information



Fuzzy mittens by Debbie Tomkies

BEST FOR FELTING

These felted mittens are suitable even for those new to both knitting and felting to complete. They're worked in Artesano 100% Alpaca DK, which comes in a choice of 21 colours, including Peru (red) and Ecuador (yellow), which are used to make these mittens. It's interchangeable with Artesano Hummingbird DK, so if you'd prefer your mittens to be stripy, use this instead. Alpaca is one of the softest and warmest yarns available, so you'll want to wear these cosy mittens even on the coldest days of winter. Alpaca is also less likely to pill than other fibres and is naturally flame retardant and water repellent, too! Once you've knitted your gloves you can then put them in the washing machine and watch them transform from standard knitting into irresistible felt. This pattern is priced at around £2.20.

Visit www.artesanoyarns.co.uk or call 0118 9503350 to find your local stockist



Long Noro gloves by Jenny Watson

Noro's Designer Mini Knits pattern book is filled with designs for gloves, mittens, hats and other accessories that accentuate the beauty of Noro yarns. We love these long gloves, knitted in Noro Silk Garden Lite, a luxurious DK yarn made from 45% silk, 45% kid mohair and 10% lambswool. The gloves here are worked in shade 2011, but you'll be spoilt for choice with many different multicoloured varieties available. The pattern itself is fairly simple, since the yarn produces wonderful stripes on its own. Beginners or intermediate knitters can try these as they're worked mostly in simple stocking stitch, with a few other more complicated techniques to challenge you. The pattern book costs £7.50.

Visit www.getknitted.com or call 0117 3005211 to order yourself a copy



BEST FOR COLOUR

Lamarr gloves by Marie Wallin

This classic design is part of the Nostalgia Collection in Rowan's Knitting & Crochet Magazine Number 44. The real beauty of these vintage-looking gloves is their simplicity - the pattern

itself is very easy to follow. However, if you're used to working on larger needles with DK yarns, you may find these gloves a little tricky, as they're worked in Rowan 4ply Soft on 2.75mm needles. But it's this use of yarn and needles that gives them their delicate and refined appeal. The yarn is also machine washable, making it a wise choice for gloves. The gloves pictured here have been worked in shade 389, Expresso, but Rowan 4ply Soft comes in a range of other delicious colours too, including Malachite (green), Tea Rose (pale pink) and Putty (cream). Rowan's Knitting & Crochet Magazine Number 44 costs £10.95 and contains 65 stylish knits for winter.

Visit www.knitrowan.com or call 01484 681881 to find your nearest local stockist





Elizabeth Leight
has tracked down
some inspirational and
engrossing reads

Book reviews

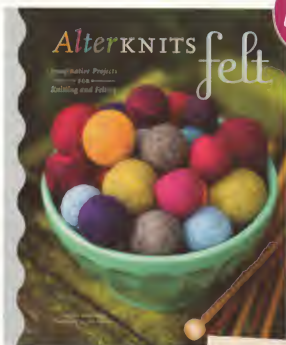
Check out our top picks for January reads and start off the new year by learning more about the craft you love!

Alterknits felt

Imaginative projects for knitting and felting, by Leigh Radford

The idea of felting can scare even the most experienced of knitters, but the technique is easy to learn and you'll soon see just how easy it is to produce really unique and lovely items. Leigh, an experienced knitting instructor and designer, goes beyond the basic felting processes to show how slight variations can produce entirely different results. Creativity is encouraged in all the projects in the book, which range from clothing and accessories to cushions and rugs - even a tree skirt. Learn to felt entire objects or to use it as embellishment and appliqué, valuable skills for the imaginative knitter. With lovely colour pictures, clear instructions and advice along the way, this book will give you a good introduction to felting and all that can be achieved with it. The book itself is presented in a really beautiful way, hardback with a cloth spine, so it will make a perfect gift for a fellow knitter.

Published by Stewart, Tabori & Chang,
hardback, 136 pages, ISBN 978-1-5847-9707-4, £12.99



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loves

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Call ☎ 01476 541080
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Alterknits Felt for just
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AGC Black, ☎ 020 77580200
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New Holland Publishers,
☎ 020 77247773
www.newhollandpublishers.com

Rowan, ☎ 01484 681881
www.knitrowan.com

Stewart Tabori & Chang,
☎ 020 77132060
www.abramsbooks.co.uk

Voyageur Press, ☎ 01476 541080
www.voyageurpress.com

Beautiful embroidered and embellished knits

This is the perfect book for anyone who wants to take their knitting up a notch, and learn to transform simple items into gorgeous works of art by using a few basic beading and embroidery techniques. Jane explains all the skills you need to work the array of gorgeous patterns for hats, scarves, shawls, bags, sweaters and home décor. Each design is clearly photographed and has a set of symbols to show how much knitting and embroidery experience is necessary to take it on, so you can start at a level that's right for you. This will surely be a book you'll come back to again and again for gift ideas, as well as inspiration on



dressing up your favourite designs.

Published by David and Charles,
paperback, 128 pages, ISBN 978-0-8968-9809-7, £14.99

Rowan crochet workshop

by Emma Seddon

The title says it all - this book is a resource for a wide variety of crochet techniques to take you from beginner to advanced in a series of six step-by-step workshops. After learning the basics, move on to Stripes, Edging and Seams; Shaping Crochet; Texture, Lace and Colour; Crocheted Garments; and Embellishing Crochet. Projects for both you and the home are scattered throughout the book to help you get the hang of each new skill. Spiral-bound pages keep the book lying flat as you follow each clearly-illustrated step. This is an ideal book for beginners with a drive to learn, or even intermediates who want to brush up on their techniques.

Published by Rowan, hardback, 192 pages ISBN 978-1-9060-0734-8, £18.99

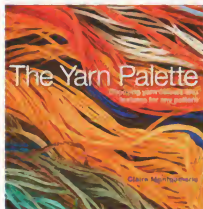


Beautiful knits for heads, hands & toes

Stunning accessories for you to knit, by Alison Dupernex

Sometimes it's fun to focus on knitted accessories rather than just clothing, and Alison's book is perfect for that sort of knitting mood. Be inspired with a variety of stitches and styles for hats, wraps, bags, gloves, slippers, socks and more. The projects are fun to look at, as well as wear, and will undoubtedly tempt knitters of all skills to get their needles out.

Published by New Holland Publishers, hardback, 128 pages, ISBN 978-1-8477-3119-7, £14.99



The yarn palette

Choosing yarn colours and textures for any pattern, by Claire Montgomerie

You may be an experienced knitter, but how much do you know about yarn? Get an in-depth look at it here, and push yourself to experiment with colours and textures to give your knitting a whole new edge. The book begins with intro to colour, dyes and designing, and then goes into colour-themed chapters detailing shades and ideas. Lovely patterns in each chapter illustrate Claire's points. New designers will find this an invaluable resource as they start to create their own patterns, and all knitters will gain the knowledge they need to confidently choose new and unique yarns for their next project.

Published by A&C Black, paperback, 176 pages, ISBN 978-1-45081-0133-9, £16.99

Knitting through it

Inspiring stories for times of trouble, edited by Lela Nargi

You've probably found at times that knitting is more than just a hobby - it can also be a therapeutic exercise to carry you through a difficult patch in your life, stitch by stitch. *Knitting Through It* is a collection of writings from knitters of all ages and backgrounds who have done just that. The book is categorised into themes, such as Charity, Illness, Work, Grief, War, Families in Motion, and Relationships. Lela has included inspirational pieces from contemporary writers, as well as items dating all the way back to four letters written to Abraham Lincoln that accompanied knitted gifts! Some of the writings also include patterns for the items mentioned, enabling you to connect even more with the various authors by knitting the very same things that helped them through their hard times. A good read for any knitter, *Knitting Through It* shows just how life-changing knitting can be, and how lucky we are to have it.

Published by Voyageur Press, hardback, 224 pages, ISBN 978-0-7603-3005-0, £12.99





Diane Hollands brings you her pick of tweed yarns – so find a pattern and knit it with the yarn you like best.

Tweed yarns

Knit up an attractive tweed fabric using our favourite yarns this month – they're beautifully textured, and are the perfect choice for classic sweaters and jackets

A tweed yarn can have elements of its namesake that give it texture, colour, or even both. Tweed fabrics usually have a rustic, unfinished texture and are closely woven from wool. The yarns are very versatile and can be knitted plainly, or in a check or herringbone pattern that accents the tweed texture. As you can see from the yarns we've chosen here, they each have subtle colour effects or lovely heather mixtures within them that are obtained by twisting different strands of yarn together.

It's not certain why this particular mix of materials is called 'tweed'. Some say that it comes from the River Tweed, which runs through the borders region

of England and Scotland. Others believe that tweed yarns and fabrics take their name from 'tweel', the old Scottish spelling of 'twirl'. Wherever the name comes from, the properties of the yarn are clear – tweed is commonly used for informal outerwear (especially for men and traditionally for hunting garments), as it's often water-resistant and durable. Famous varieties of tweed include Bannockburn, English, Harris, Irish, Linton, Manx, Scotch and Donegal. Knitting with tweed yarn is much the same as with any other yarn, and given its nature, it suits classic styles of knitwear and responds well to cables and other stitch patterns.

Scottish Wool Tweed

This soft, light aran weight yarn is ideal for knitting and crochet – use it to make some wonderfully warm autumn and winter knits. Scottish Wool Tweed comes in some beautifully bright colours that will really jazz up your wardrobe. You can choose from the following mix shades: purple (shown here), red, green, mustard, light blue, dark blue, steel blue and black. It knits to a tension of 17 stitches and 24 rows to 10x10cm or 4x4in, when worked on 5mm needles.

To order, call ☎ 020 81444523
or visit www.knitshop.co.uk



Content: 100% wool
Weight/length: 100g/200m
Needle size: 4.5-5.5mm
Shade shown: 20WTS263, Purple Mix
Wash: Hand wash in cold water
RRP: £5.79



Debbie Bliss Donegal Luxury Tweed

Debbie Bliss has enhanced her traditional Donegal Tweed Aran formula to bring you this gorgeous Luxury Tweed. The primary difference from the standard tweed yarn is that this one includes angora, which gives it a lovely softness while still retaining its rustic look. This yarn is crafted in Kilcar, Ireland and comes in a range of delicious colours, such as Celery, Raspberry and Chocolate. It knits to a tension of 18 stitches and 24 rows to 10x10cm or 4x4in on 5mm needles.



To find a local stockist, visit
www.designeryarns.uk.com or
call ☎ 01535 664222

Content: 85% wool,
15% angora
Weight/length: 50g/85m
Needle size: 5mm
Shade shown: 11, Green
Wash: Hand wash
RRP: £4.75



Rowan Felted Tweed

This warm yarn is an exciting alternative to traditional DK weight yarns, with a long length that's more like 4ply. It holds its shape and wears really well, and comes in 16 heathered colours. You'll find some great designs to inspire your use of the yarn in Rowan's *Classic Knits for Men* (£14.99 from Laughing Hens).



To order, visit www.laughinghens.com or call 01829 740903



Content: 50% merino wool, 25% alpaca, 25% viscose

Weight/length: 50g/175m

Needle size: 3.75-4mm

Shade shown: 154.

Ginger

Wash: Machine wash 40°

RRP: £4.95

Katia Irish Tweed

Katia's Irish Tweed is a bulky, traditional yarn that comes in a range of lovely natural and earthy colourways. It's a heavy, aran weight yarn with 25% nylon content, which gives it durability. The addition of wool and silk into the mix makes it wonderfully soft, so it has all the beauty of classic tweed without any of the roughness you can sometimes find. Irish Tweed is also machine washable in cold water, making it a practical choice for sweaters, jackets, hats and scarves, or other knitted items that will be worn a lot and need regular washing.



To order, visit www.ecreations.co.uk or call 01326 555777



Content: 50% wool, 20% silk, 25% nylon

Weight/length: 50g/65m

Needle size: 6mm

Shade shown: B906

Wash: Machine wash cold

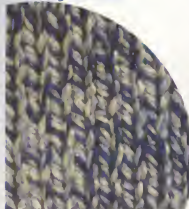
RRP: £3.75

King Cole Big Value Tweed DK

Big Value Tweed DK is a classic yarn with marls of contrast colours. It's made from 100% acrylic - acrylic is cheaper than wool, so it's a good choice for the budget-conscious knitter. And because it's wool-free, it's moth-proof! Big Value Tweed DK comes in a range of solid colours, too.



For stockists, call 01535 650230 or visit www.kingcole.co.uk



Content: 100% acrylic

Weight/length: 100g/290m

Needle size: 4mm

Shade shown: 97, Blue Peter

Wash: Machine wash 40°

RRP: £1.85

Rowan Summer Tweed

Despite the name, this worsted-weight tweed is a perfect all-year-round yarn that combines the luxury of silk with the durability of cotton. It's dotted with nebs of toning colours that give a wonderful visual texture, while the yarn feels super soft to the touch. This is a great choice for ladies' knits, and is available in some really gorgeous shades. Rowan Summer Tweed knits to a tension of 16 stitches and 23 rows to 10x10cm or 4x4in, on 5mm needles.



For stockists, call 01484 681881 or visit www.knitrowan.com



Content: 70% silk, 30% cotton

Weight/length: 50g/108m

Needle size: 5mm needles

Shade shown: 54, Loganberry

Wash: Handwash

RRP: £3.95

The perfect
first toy
for you to knit

Baby bear



Val Pierce teaches needlecrafts, knitting and crochet. She worked for many major yarn companies and designers before deciding to create her own patterns.

By **Val Pierce**

This adorable little bear is the perfect toy for a small child, and he's been cleverly designed to be as straightforward as possible to create

Cute and cuddly, teddy bears have a unique charm, and this one by Val Pierce is very high on the ahhh-factor! The timeless quality of this soft toy means it's always a good gift, and he (or she if you choose a different yarn colour) will surely be the treasured playmate of a little child. Alternatively, knit him as a much-needed gift for an older child who's just got a new baby brother or sister to help them feel special.

and microfibre. You can rest assured that it's super-soft and gentle enough for children, while not being too fluffy for inquisitive little mouths, noses and ears!

We've knitted our bear with a blue outfit on, but you can choose from one of 32 shades in the range, or even customise his outfit with stripes, a variegated yarn, a Fair Isle pattern, or anything you like to suit your little one.

Homemade gift

The bear himself is fairly simple to create - the pieces just use knit, purl and shaping stitches. You'll also need a few stitch holders for the simple body divisions, and a bit of crochet know-how to make the finishing touches like the bootie ties and front trim. Just read the pattern through before you start and it will all make more sense, and the diagrams help.

Making up is also easier than it first sounds and is always the most exciting stage in any knit project - all your hard work will begin to take shape as a finished item that will become a wonderful, life-long gift for a child.



Content:

12% cashmere,
55% merino wool,
33% microfibre

Weight/Length:
50g/125m

Washing:

Machine wash at 30°C
RRP: £4.45

Designer Yarns,
☎ 01535 664222

Soft and
safe

Our cute little bear is knitted using Debbie Bliss's Baby Cashmerino DK yarn, a lovely blend of cashmere, merino wool

➔ turn over to start knitting



This special bear will make a lovely knitted gift for a small child

PATTERN
DETAILSYOU
WILL
NEED...

One 50g ball of Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino DK, shade 005 (yarn A)

Three 50g balls of Debbie Bliss Baby Cashmerino DK, shade 202 (yarn B)

3.25mm (UK size 10) knitting needles

One 3mm crochet hook

Scrap of black yarn for embroidery

Two 6mm round black safety eyes

One embroidered nursery motif (available from good craft stores)

Safety stuffing

Stitch holders

tension

Yarn used knits as DK to this tension:
25st or 34 rows over 10cm
or 4in using st st

Finished toy will measure
approx 36cm or 14½in
in height

START
HERE!

HEAD

Cast on 60 sts using 3.25mm needles and yarn A. In garter stitch, proceed as follows:
Work 2 rows straight in garter stitch.

Next row: K2, k2tog tbl, knit to last 4 sts, k2tog, K2.

Work 2 rows straight in garter stitch.
Continue to dec 1 st at each end of the next and following 3rd rows until 6 sts remain.

Next row: K2, k2tog, K2.

Next row: K1, k3tog, K1.

Next row: K3tog tbl.

Fasten off.

LEFT LEG

Cast on 27 sts with 3.25mm needles and yarn B.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: K4, m1, K3, m1, K8, m1, K4, m1, K8, 31sts.

Rows 3-5: Garter stitch (every row K).

Row 6: K5, m1, K3, m1, K10, m1, K4, m1, K9, 35sts.

Row 7: Knit.

Row 8: K21, m1, K4, m1, K10, 37sts.

Work 5 rows straight in garter stitch.

SHOULDER

Row 1: K26, k2tog tbl.

Row 2: P5, p2tog, turn.

Row 3: K5, k2tog tbl, turn.

Rows 4-6: Repeat rows 2 and 3 twice more, then row 2 once again. 29sts.

Row 7: Knit.

Row 8: P to end, inc 1 st in centre of row. 30 sts.
**Continue in st st, work 21 rows increasing 1 st at each end of the following 5th row and then every 8th row. 36 sts.
Continue on these sts until work measures 9cm or 3½in, ending on a purl row **
Leave sts on a stitch holder.

RIGHT LEG

Cast on 27 sts with 3.25mm needles and yarn



B.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: K8, m1, K4, m1, K8, m1, K3, m1, K4, 31sts.

Rows 3-5: Garter stitch.

Row 6: K9, m1, K4, m1, K10, m1, K3, m1, K5, 35 sts.

Row 7: Knit.

Row 8: K10, m1, K4, m1, K21, 37 sts.

Work 5 more rows straight in garter stitch.

SHOULDER

Row 1: K15, k2tog tbl, turn.

Row 2: P5, p2tog, turn.

Row 3: K5, k2tog tbl, turn.

Repeat rows 2 and 3 twice more, then row 2 one more time.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: Purl to end, but increase 1 st in the centre of the row. 30 sts.

Now work from ** to ** as on left leg.

BODY

Join legs to form body, as follows:

Next row: Knit 1, inc in next st, knit to last but 1 st, inc, K1, cast on 3 sts.

Now, work across sts on stitch holder as follows:
K1, inc, knit to last but 1 st, inc, K1, 79 sts.

Next row: Purl.

Now, continue in stocking stitch on these sts until work measures 10cm or 4in from the 3 cast on sts, ending with a purl row.

Twist easily for back and living

Next row: K17, slip these stitches onto a holder for right front, cast off 6 sts. K32 sts, slip these 33 sts onto a holder for the back. Cast off 6 sts and K17 sts to end.

Left front body

Work on these 17 sts to form left front body:

Row 1: Purl to end.

Row 2: K1, sl1, pssso, knit to end.

Row 3: Purl to last 3 sts, p2tog tbl, P1. 15 sts.

Rows 4-7: Repeat rows 2 and 3 twice. 11 sts.

Row 8: K1, sl1, pssso, knit to end.

Row 9: Purl.

Repeat rows 8 and 9 once, then row 8 once again. 8sts.

Shape neck

Next row: Cast off 1 st, purl to end.

Work 2 rows, decreasing 1 st at raglan edge on the next row and at the same time dec 1 st at

the neck edge on every row. 4 sts.

Next row: K1, sl1, k2tog, pssso.

Next row: P2tog.

Fasten off.

Body of body

With WS facing, rejoin yarn to 33 sts on stitch holder, purl to end.

Row 1: K1, sl1, pssso, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Row 2: P1, p2tog, purl to last 3 sts, p2togtbl, P1.

Row 3-6: Rep rows 1 and 2 twice more. 21 sts.

Row 7: K1, sl1, pssso, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Row 8: Purl.

Rep rows 7 and 8 four times. 11sts.

Cast off.

Inside lower all points

With WS facing, rejoin yarn to 17 sts on holder and purl to end.

Row 1: K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Row 2: P1, p2tog, purl to end.



Stuff the bear carefully for an even finish

ABBREVIATIONS

cm	centimetres
ch	chain
dc	double crochet
dec	decrease
in	inches
inc	increase 1 st by knitting twice into next stitch
K	knit
k2tog	knit two stitches together
m1	make one stitch
P	purl
p2tog	purl two stitches together
pssso	pass slipped stitch over
rep	repeat
rs	right side of work
tbl	through back of loop
tr	treble crochet
ws	wrong side of work
sl1	slip one stitch from the left needle to the right needle
sl st	slip stitch
st(s)	stitch(es)
st st	stocking stitch

Rep rows 1 and 2 twice more. 11 sts.

Row 7: K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Row 8: Purl.

Rep rows 7 and 8 once more. 9 sts.

SHOULDER

Cast off 1 st, K to last 2 sts, k2tog.

Next row: Purl.

Work 2 more rows, dec 1 st at neck edge in every row and at the same time, dec 1 st at raglan edge in next row. 4 sts.

Next row: K3tog, K1.

Next row: P2tog.

Fasten off.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Cast on 27 sts with 3.25mm needles and yarn B.

Work 10 rows in garter stitch.

Change to st st and proceed as follows:

Increase 1 st at each end of the row on the 3rd and every following 5th row until you have 33 sts on the needles. Continue until the arm measures 8cm or 3in from start, ending on a WS row.

TOYME TRO

Cast off 3 sts at the beg of the next 2 rows.

Row 1: K1, sl1, pss0, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Row 2: P1, p2tog, P to last 3 sts, p2togtbl, P1.

Rep rows 1 and 2 once more. 19 sts.

Row 7: K1, sl1, pss0, K to last 3 sts, k2tog, K1.

Row 8: Purl

Rep rows 7 and 8 five more times. 7 sts.

Cast off.

TOYME

Using yarn A and 3.25mm needles, with RS of work facing, pick up 20 sts along the cast on edge of the arm.

Work 4 rows in garter stitch.

Continuing in garter stitch, dec 1 st at each end of row on following 6 rows.

Work 2 rows straight. Cast off remaining 8 sts.

Work other paw the same on the other arm.

FINISHING TOUCHES

TOYME TRO (MAKE 2)

Using a 3mm crochet hook and yarn B, make a chain 12cm or 4½in long. Fasten off.

TOYME

Using a 3mm hook and yarn B, make 43ch.

Row 1: Into 2nd chain from hook, work 1 dc, **1 tr into next chain, 1 dc into next chain **.

Repeat from ** to ** all along, do not fasten off but work the same pattern along the other side of the starting chain, joined with a sl st.

Fasten off and work in ends.

TOYME

Knit the collar after you have made up the bear to enable a good fit.

Cast on 8 sts with 3.25mm needles and yarn B.

Knit 4 rows in garter stitch.

Continuing in garter stitch, shape as follows:

Row 1: K6, turn.

Row 2: K6.

Rows 3 and 4: Knit across all stitches.

Repeat the last 4 rows until collar, when slightly stretched, fits around the neck of the bear.

Knit 4 rows in garter stitch. Cast off.

MAKE UP THE HEAD

First, neatly work in all loose ends on all pieces.

Take the head triangle and, working from diagram A, fold point 1 to point 6. Now, fold points 2 and 3 inwards to meet point 6. You



"This teddy is designed with very few pieces in mind. Starting up is straightforward as the body and head are knitted by one and the same and pattern that is used would make it very easy to make."

Val Pierce
Knitwear designer



A pair of safety eyes and an embroidered nose and mouth make up the bear's face



toptip

Adding extra rows
between the main
stitching makes the
knit more sturdy and
comfortable, especially
for the children.

should have a shape similar to diagram B. Starting at point 6, stitch lines A to B on both sides, but leave 2.5cm or 1in free at each side to form the ears.

Using diagram C as a guide, stitch part way from nose to base to create bear's chin. This will become clear as you fold and stitch.

Stuff the head a little at a time, shaping as you do. Once the head is stuffed, insert the safety eyes, making sure they are very firmly pressed together to lock them.

Now stitch the ears, gathering slightly to give shape, following the lines as shown on the diagram - this should also give the head a rounded top. Add further stuffing to give the shape you require.

Using black yarn, stitch a nose shape onto the bear, using the photo as a guide. Flatten the base slightly, then stitch up the last part.

in place. Stitch seam of arm and paw. Turn right side out. Insert other arm in the same way.

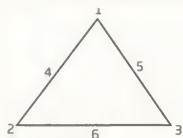
Turn work inside out and stitch together the feet and legs, following seams, remembering the seam will run on the inside of each leg. Now, stitch up front opening, leaving neck edge open to enable stuffing. Turn work right side out and begin to stuff, working on a leg at a time. Stuff and shape the toes, then the legs. Continue to stuff the body and then each arm.

Do not close neck edge, but flatten slightly to make a base for the head to be stitched to. Now, stitch the head firmly onto the body. Take the collar and stitch around the teddy bear's neck, turning under a slight amount of the collar at the top as you do.

Stitch the front edging in place, beginning at the seam between the bear's legs and ending in the centre of the collar. Stitch the little motif onto the bear's chest, using photo as a guide. Take the ties and tie firmly around the ankle of each foot to accentuate the bootie shape. Tie in a bow and then stitch through the bow to secure.

MAKE UP THE BODY

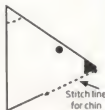
Take the arms and match to top of arm shaping on main body; part insert the arms and stitch



A. Fold Lines



B. Stitch Lines



C. Side View

Next month

Knit a special treat for your little girl next month. She'll love this stylish pink and purple bolero jacket, with its comfortable, roomy shape and fun, looped edging!

See January 2014



Knit by Jay B.

knittoday shopping guide

Start knitting today! Find out where to buy the yarns used in this month's patterns using our handy guide

Alpaca Select

82 Frobrisher Road
Coventry
CV3 9NA
☎ 02476 411776
www.alpacaselect.co.uk

Bergère de France

11 White Hart Gardens
Hartford
Northwich
CW8 2FA
☎ 01606 883149
www.bergerefrance.co.uk

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6	7	9	3	4	2	8	1	5
6	4	3	1	6	5	7	9	2
2	1	5	9	8	7	4	3	6
4	3	6	8	7	9	5	2	1
7	9	1	2	5	3	6	8	4
5	2	6	4	1	6	9	7	3
1	8	7	6	2	4	3	5	9
9	6	2	5	3	6	1	4	7
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EDITORIAL

Managing editor Marie Parry
Production editor Elizabeth Leight
Product consultant Diane Hollands
Editorial contributor Becky Skuse

ART DEPARTMENT

Art Editor Claire Watkins

ADVERTISING

Group ad manager Alison Zak-Collins,
alisonzak-collins@originpublishing.co.uk
Account manager Melanie Harris,
0117 3148367
melanieharris@originpublishing.co.uk
Classified sales executive
Shanelle Jovanovic, 0117 3148320
shanellej@originpublishing.co.uk
Ad coordinators Shelley Beacham and
James Daniel

PUBLISHING

Publisher Anna Davenport
Production director Catherine Potter
Managing director Andy Marshall

MARKETING

Marketing manager Jacky Perales-Morris

PRODUCTION

Production director Sarah Powell
Production assistant Pip Smith
Repro Tony Hunt, Chris Sutcliffe
Distribution Comag
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KNIT LIBRARY

Cut out and keep our selection of advanced cable patterns

➤ Celtic cable



➤ Ensign's Braid



➤ Trellis Diamond



➤ Triple twisted cable



CUT OUT & KEEP

KNIT LIBRARY

Learn to knit these four advanced cable patterns

ENSIGN'S BRAID

A chunky cable pattern that looks best when worked with a chunky yarn.

Begin with 20 sts bordered by reverse stocking stitch.

Row 1 (RS): K3, P4, C6B, P4, K3.

Row 2 and every foll WS row: K all K sts and P all P sts.

Row 3: (Cr4L, P2, Cr4R) twice.

Row 5: (P1, Cr4L, Cr4R, P1) twice.

Row 7: P2, C6F, P4, C6B, P2.

Row 9: (P1, Cr4R, Cr4L, P1) twice.

Row 11: (Cr4R, P2, Cr4L) twice.

Row 13: K3, P4, C6F, P4, K3.

Row 15: As row 3.

Row 17: As row 5.

Row 19: P2, C6B, P4, C6F, P2.

Row 21: As row 9.

Row 23: As row 11.

Row 24: (P3, K4, P3) twice. Repeat these 24 rows.



ABBREVIATIONS

Cr4L	sl 3 sts onto cn (cable needle) at front, P1, K3 from cn
Cr4R	sl 1 onto cn at back, K3, P1 from cn
C6F	sl 3 sts onto cn at front, K3, K3 from cn
C6B	sl 3 sts onto cn at back, K3, K3 from cn

CELTIC CABLE

A classic cable for all knits.

Begin with 24 sts bordered by reverse stocking stitch.

Row 1 (RS): (P2, C4B, P2) 3 times.

Row 2 and every foll WS row: K all K sts and P all P sts.

Row 3: P1, Cr3R, (Cr4L, Cr4R) twice, Cr3L, P1.

Row 5: Cr3R, P1, (P2, C4F, P2) twice, P1, Cr3L.

Row 7: K2, P2, (Cr4R, Cr4L) twice, P2, K2.

Row 9: (K2, P2) twice, P2, C4B, P2, (P2, K2) twice.

Row 11: K2, P2, (Cr4L, Cr4R) twice, P2, K2.

Row 13: Cr3L, P1, (P2, C4F, P2) twice, P1, Cr3R.

Row 15: P1, Cr3L, (Cr4R, Cr4L) twice, Cr3R, P1.

Row 16: (K2, P4, K2) 3 times. Repeat these 16 rows.



ABBREVIATIONS

Cr3L	sl 2 sts onto cn (cable needle) at front, P1, K2 from cn
Cr3R	sl 1 onto cn at back, K2, P1 from cn
Cr4L	sl 2 sts onto cn at back, K2, P2 from cn
Cr4R	sl 2 sts onto cn at back, K2, P2 from cn
C4F	sl 2 sts onto cn at front, K2, K2 from cn
C4B	sl 2 sts onto cn at back, K2, K2 from cn

TRIPLE TWISTED CABLE

A cable that looks much stronger than it is in practice. The three-twist is ideal for decreasing the fraying of a jumper and works well with mohair yarns.

Begin with 24 sts bordered by reverse stocking stitch.

Row 1 (RS): (P2, C4B, P2) 3 times.

Row 2 and every foll WS row: K all K sts and P all P sts.

Row 3: Cr4R, Cr4L, P2, K4, P2, Cr4R, Cr4L.

Row 5: K2, P4, K2, P2, C4B, P2, K2, P4, K2.

Row 7: Cr4L, Cr4R, P2, K4, P2, Cr4L, Cr4R.

Row 9: As row 1.

Row 11: (Cr4R, Cr4L) 3 times.

Row 13: K2, (P4, C4F) twice, P4, K2.

Row 15: (Cr4L, Cr4R) 3 times.

Row 16: (K2, P4, K2) 3 times. Repeat these 16 rows.



ABBREVIATIONS

Cr4L	sl 2 sts onto cn (cable needle) at front, P2, K2 from cn
Cr4R	sl 2 sts onto cn at back, K2, P2 from cn
C4F	sl 2 sts onto cn at front, K2, K2 from cn
C4B	sl 2 sts onto cn at back, K2, K2 from cn

TRELLIS DIAMOND

A delicate cable pattern that needs a light touch – the subtle effect will work well with 4-ply, merino yarns.

Begin with 18 sts on rev st st.

Row 1 (RS): P5, Cr4R, Cr4L, P5.

Row 2 and every foll WS row except rows 10, 14 and 18: K all K sts and P all P sts.

Row 3: P4, Cr4R, P2, Cr4L, P4.

Row 5: P3, Cr3R, K1, P4, K1, Cr3L, P3.

Row 7: P2, Cr3R, P1, Cr2L, P2, Cr2R, P1, Cr3L, P2.

Row 9: P1, Cr2R, K1, P3, Cr2L, Cr2R, P3, K1, Cr2L, P1.

Row 10: (K1, P1) twice, K4, C2FP, K4.

Row 11: Cr2R, P1, (Cr2L, P2, Cr2R) twice, P1, Cr2L.

Row 13: K1, P3, (Cr2L, Cr2R, P2) twice, P1, K1.

Row 14: P1, K4, C2BP, twice, K4, P1.

Row 15: K1, P3, (Cr2R, Cr2L, P2) twice, P1, K1.

Row 17: Cr2L, P1, (Cr2R, P2, Cr2L) twice, P1, Cr2R.

Row 18: As row 10.

Row 19: P1, Cr2L, K1, P3, Cr2R, Cr2L, P3, K1, Cr2R, P1.

Row 21: P2, Cr3L, P1, Cr2R, P2, Cr2L, P1, Cr3R, P2.

Row 23: P3, Cr3L, K1, P4, K1, Cr3R, P3.

Row 25: P4, Cr4L, P2, Cr4R, P4.

Row 27: P5, Cr4L, Cr4R, P5.

Row 29: P6, C6F, P6, Cr2L, P1.

Row 30: (K1, P1) twice, K4, C2FP, K4.

Repeat these 30 rows.



ABBREVIATIONS

Cr2L	sl 1 onto cn (cable needle) at front, P1, K1 from cn
Cr2R	sl 1 onto cn at back, K1, P1 from cn
Cr3L	sl 2 sts onto cn at front, P1, K2 from cn
Cr3R	sl 1 onto cn at back, K2, P1 from cn
Cr4L	sl 3 sts onto cn at front, P1, K3 from cn
Cr4R	sl 1 onto cn at back, K3, P1 from cn
C2FP	sl 1 onto cn at WS, P1, P1 from cn
C2BP	sl 1 onto cn at RS, P1, P1 from cn
C6F	sl 3 sts onto cn at front, K3, K3 from cn



Last word

We caught up with top designer and author, Tina Barrett, to find out about the lure of the sticks and getting that knitting 'oooh' feeling...

What led you to start designing knitwear? I've always had a tendency for spotting a gap in the market and creating something to fill it. My grandma remembers me cutting up old curtains in her garden shed when I was seven to make shorts for my Barbie. Unfortunately, I hadn't allowed any gusset room and poor dolly could barely fit a leg in! In my teens came a tie-on nose-warmer for my chilly bedroom, and a tie-dyed bedsheet cut and fashioned into a pencil skirt and shell top. It was only when I set up my small business, Knitty Nora, that I began designing seriously. I sold children's knits around the local farmers' markets, but I didn't think it would become the career it has until my book *Knits for Dogs and Cats* was published by GMC in 2006.

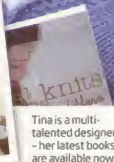
What kinds of things do you like to design? I have a bit of a butterfly mind - one minute I am totally into vintage women's wear, and

the next I'm thinking about a collection of teddy bears. In a way, I wish I could find a pigeonhole and wedge myself in it so people could recognise my work by its signature style. On the other hand, it means I'm quite adaptable and can design right across the spectrum. Plus, it means I never get bored

“ Whenever knitters start a new project they need to get the 'oooh' feeling ”

with my commission work. I am also a big fan of natural and organic fibres, and my new books - *Natural knits for babies and toddlers* and *Natural crochet for babies and toddlers* (published by GMC 2008) - include garments and toys designed using a range of easily available natural yarns and organic fibres.

What would you like other knitters to get from your designs? Whenever knitters start a project, they need to get the 'oooh' feeling - "oooh, I love that" or "oooh, I know somebody who would love that." I hope people get a bit of that when they see my designs, and I aim to design the pattern



Tina is a multi-talented designer - her latest books are available now

so knitters can create the project easily and painlessly. Nothing is more satisfying than trying on a finished project and having it look exactly (or better) than you first envisaged.

Do you have any other hobbies? I really love knitting! I have gone over to the dark side of cross stitch and tapestry from time to time, but the lure of the sticks always drags me back. My husband recently bought the family a camper van so we could all go surfing - all it means for me is that I can knit in the warm while all the others are shivering on a windy beach! I think I need help!

What are you working on at the moment? I'm lucky to be very busy. This year, I've had two books published and have two more in the pipeline for 2009. I'm also working on a line of women's wear for Cornish Organic Wool and I'm really enjoying using UK yarns for that. I'll be launching a website soon as well, which I hope will be a place knitters will want to drop by and leave a comment or pick up one of the free patterns. All in all, I'm looking forward to the future and to getting that 'oooh' feeling again and again!



To find out more about Tina Barrett's books and patterns visit www.thegmcgroup.com



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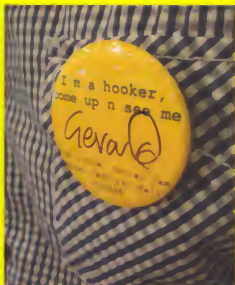


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